Daily Report

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FBIS-LAT-88-222 *17 November 1988*

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OAS General Assembly Proceedings Reported

Honduras Plans New Proposal

PA1611140588 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Report by Radio America's special correspondent Elan Reyes Pineda from San Salvador]

[Excerpt] Events of great significance for Honduras took place yesterday in San Salvador. Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras assured the international media that he is willing to submit a new proposal to the OAS General Assembly early tomorrow morning. The new proposal will modify 80- percent of the proposal submitted to the United Nations on 4 October, which calls for an international peacekeeping force to be deployed on the borders between Honduras and Nicaragua and between Honduras and El Salvador.

Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras achieved a resounding success here in San Salvador when he persuaded the other Central American foreign ministers, including Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, to support this new proposal, which will be submitted by Lopez Contreras to the 18th OAS General Assembly.

According to statements by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, the Central American foreign ministers were very satisfied at the conclusion of their meeting, given that the proposal to be submitted by Honduras offers new ideas. This proposal will be more flexible than the one Honduras submitted to the United Nations; that is why it is thought the Honduran proposal will be one of the topics discussed by the 33 delegates to the OAS General Assembly meeting in San Salvador.

It was Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras who proposed that his Central American colleagues meet with him, when practically all efforts to bring the Central American foreign ministers together at this OAS General Assembly had failed.

Other significant events have taken place as a result of the Honduran initiative. The Central American foreign ministers have agreed to hold a formal meeting on 29 November in Mexico City to discuss the agenda for the next Central American presidential summit, which could take place either in late December or in early January. The date of the summit will be decided at the inauguration of Mexican President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari, according to what was agreed at the informal meeting called unexpectedly by the Honduran foreign minister.

Another significant development was the stand of Costa Rica, which urged the 33 delegations taking part in this General Assembly to support efforts to pressure Nicaragua into withdrawing a lawsuit brought against Honduras before the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said in his speech to the 18th OAS General Assembly that Nicaragua's lawsuit is the main obstacle to the resumption of peace negotiations among all the Central American countries. [passage omitted]

Ecuador Stresses U.S. Ties

PA1711014088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0350 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Ecuador today said at the 18th OAS General Assembly, being held in San Salvador, it favored Latin American countries improving relations with the United States, "while defending their own interests."

In his speech, Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez urged "taking advantage of our natural inclination to maintain relations based on sincere friendship and cooperation with the United States" for promoting "actions that are better suited to the Latin American situation."

He added Ecuador hopes that during the new Bush administration, regional relations can be developed which "will revitalize and put into practice the principles of solidarity and friendship."

Concerning the Latin American economic crisis, the Ecuadoran minister said, "It is perhaps even worse today," adding that social decay "threatens to tear down the institutional bases of the region."

Cordovez voiced his country's concern over the Central American political situation and the violation of human rights in several countries in the hemisphere. He condemned drug trafficking and spoke in favor of disarmament and the limitation of war materiel.

Ecuador's foreign policy, the minister emphasized, is inspired by "a desire for constructive and fruitful peace that will eliminate tensions and overcome world, regional, and bilateral differences."

Nicaragua Calls for 'Militancy'

PA1711012088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2321 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaragua today urged Latin America to "maintain its militancy" in Central America and asked the United States to view its experiences in the region as "proof that a military solution, a policy of force and intervention, has been superseded."

"Nicaragua remains determined to achieve peace through negotiation. The new Bush administration now has a historic opportunity which hopefully it will take advantage of," said Carlos Tunnermann, Nicaraguan ambassador to the OAS. Tunnermann was expelled from the United States by the U.S. Government in July.

Tunnermann read the speech that was to be delivered to the OAS Assembly by Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco. This act was seen as "a gesture of defiance [reivindicacion]" by many delegates, who nevertheless noted the moderate tone used by Nicaragua today regarding this and other topics.

"In this case, Nicaragua has done its duty and fulfilled its responsibility to the OAS. We have come out in defense of its independence and we have helped generate a process of legitimate concern among the members regarding the urgent need to negotiate with the United States for a new host country treaty," Tunnermann said.

Negotiation of such a treaty has been called by the Group of 8 (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, excluding Panama), as one of the "priority" items for the OAS agenda.

Regarding Esquipulas II, signed by the Central American presidents in August 1987, Tunnermann said Nicaragua "is complying" with them, but demanded that the rest of the countries do likewise, "without exceptions, exemptions, or privileged positions for any of them."

The Nicaraguan ambassador explained that his government has made "great efforts" to reach a permanent cease-fire agreement with the contras, and said that despite the "serious military harassment" to which Nicaragua is subjected, "concrete steps have been taken to initiate a democratic process."

"The fact that the Esquipulas agreement has not yet been successful is closely linked to the current policy of the U.S. Administration, and to the existence [as received] of a mechanism for on-site verification that would guarantee fulfillment of the agreement's commitments," he said.

On this subject, he expressed willingness to discuss the proposal which calls for the establishment of an international peace force on Nicaragua's borders with El Salvador and Honduras, and said he had "listened with great interest" to the proposal made yesterday by Costa Rica for creating a "procedure for verification and control."

"We have said it before, and we reiterate, that Nicaragua is prepared to withdraw its suit filed at the International Court of Justice [ICJ] against Honduras the moment on-site verification mechanisms are in place and the court's jurisdiction is respected," he said.

The Managua government filed suit against Honduras at the ICJ for allowing its territory to be used by anti-Sandinist rebels to harass and attack Nicaraguan positions.

After noting that there is an ongoing process of detente between the two superpowers and various peace negotiations under way in many parts of the world, Tunnermann said "Central America has no reason to remove itself from this new worldwide and regional framework."

RN Calls for Pressure

PA1611213588 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1826 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Three contra leaders today reiterated that the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) is willing to lay down its weapons if Nicaragua guarantees democracy, peace, and respect for human rights and fulfills the promises it made to the OAS in 1979 after the victory of the Sandinist revolution.

In a news conference today, Adolfo Calero, Roberto Ferrey, and Wilfredo Montalvan asked the OAS to pressure Nicaragua so there will be firm and lasting peace in that country.

The members of the anti-Sandinist directorate said they support the continuation of the 17th consultative meeting of OAS foreign ministers, which was suspended in 1979.

The contras' proposal to the OAS was presented to Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta, president of the OAS assembly as foreign minister of the host country.

The contra leaders expressed support for the Costa Rican proposal, which calls on the Nicaraguans to resume the Sapoan talks they began in March.

Regarding starting new negotiations, Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said Managua is willing to do so and the contras are the ones who have withdrawn from the talks because the United States has suspended military aid. [sentence as received]

"Now that they do not have military aid, maybe they will return," he added.

Calero admitted that about 4,000 men are fighting inside Nicaragua and the rest, approximately 13,000, are in Honduras; the area provides more food supply facilities to the combatants.

Calero said that according to a list of names, there are 7,750 people in prison in Nicaragua, and it is believed many others are being held in clandestine jails.

The members of the RN Directorate denied that at any time they sold weapons to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

If Nicaragua does not become democratic, Calero warned, our struggle will continue with or without U.S. military aid.

Calero stressed that the anti-Sandinist combatants, "men and women, are very much alive." He thus refuted reports indicating the contras are a "dead military force" and that this is now the "post contra war era."

Bosco Matamoros, the Nicaraguan rebels spokesman, added that the 380 attacks carried out from June to October are proof that their struggle has not ended.

The RN warned that the situation in Nicaragua has worsened after Hurricane Joan, and about 3,000 people who lived on the Atlantic coast, an area devastated by the hurricane, are going to Costa Rica.

Regarding Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo's claim that the contras were annihilated when the Central American presidents signed the Esquipulas II agreement in August 1987, Adolfo Calero said Azcona "is quite right in saying that Esquipulas, since it did not work, has been a hard blow to Nicaragua's liberation."

The RN spokesmen said they are "pleased" the Salvadoran legislature has asked Nicaragua to become democratic.

Tinoco Comments

PA1611222988 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU 1600 GMT 16 Nov 88

[News conference with Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco by unidentified reporters in San Salvador on 16 November—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Tinoco] ... of course, we discussed every Central American topic. I would say there has been nothing new since yesterday regarding the decision for the foreign ministers to meet on the 30th of (?this month).

[Reporter] Do you think Nicaragua will withdraw the suit against Honduras [at the International Court of Justice, ICJ], [words indistinct] an obstacle?

[Tinoco] Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo already said we (?are not) going to withdraw it. Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto mentioned some of the conditions under which the suit can be withdrawn. Namely, there should be an agreement. There should be an agreement [words indistinct]. In other words, [words indistinct]. Second, ...

[Reporter, interrupting] [words indistinct] and then Nicaragua would withdraw its suit?

[Tinoco] Sure, that is the idea. That is basically what Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto proposed yesterday. Second, the countries reserve the right to appeal to the ICJ again if everything fails. The condition to withdraw....

[Reporter, interrupting] Is the meeting subject to the condition that the suit be withdrawn?

[Tinoco] Not at all. It has nothing to do with that. The meeting will be held regardless of our differences. In fact, one attends meetings to discuss various problems.

[Reporter] Does Nicaragua agree with holding the meetings of the foreign ministers and the presidents?

[Tinoco] Absolutely, we have pressed for them the most. We wanted the meeting to be held 12 November in San Salvador, yet the Salvadoran Government asked that it not be held.

[Reporter] What are Nicaragua's conditions?

[Tinoco] None.

[Reporter] Has Costa Rica's proposal broken the stalemate? [words indistinct] the United States. Do you think there is a new outlook?

[Tinoco] The thing that can create a stalemate is the transition in the United States. I think all the Central American governments think this is the time to prevent the U.S. Administration from returning to its old policy of emphasizing war. So, the Central Americans are trying to make progress.

[Reporter] Honduras and El Salvador often attack Nicaragua, something which is at odds with Esquipulas II. What is Nicaragua's stance going to be now?

[Tinoco] We think every country is entitled to its own view. We base our actions on what international organizations state regarding human rights. You know the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' reports on Nicaragua are some of the best in Central America. Regarding compliance with Esquipulas, you know the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission, CIVS, said Nicaragua is one of the countries that....

[Reporter, interrupting] [Passage indistinct] to demand that Nicaragua comply.

[Tinoco] I think we must discuss these things first. We must discuss them in Mexico. I think the important thing here is the strong contradictions in these countries. There are strong contradictions. If we do not overcome the problem of strong political contradictions through dialogue and negotiation, the problems will never be solved. Just as we, in Nicaragua, are holding serious talks with the counterrevolutionary forces and telling them: Look, you have maneuvering room here; that should be the case everywhere. This can be done here in El Salvador. This can be done in other countries.

[Reporter] Why did you choose Mexico, instead of a Central American country, for the meeting?

[Tinoco] Because we are all going to attend the inauguration of Mexican President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari. We will take advantage of the fact that we will all be there by holding a meeting. The Mexican president takes office on 1 December, and the foreign ministers will meet the day before.

[Reporter] The Costa Rican foreign minister proposed a resumption of talks with the rebels.

[Tinoco] Presently, [words indistinct] nothing can be done about that. We have always been in favor of ending military operations. We have endorsed holding meetings in Managua or [words indistinct]. It was the contras who withdrew from the negotiations. First, they thought the U.S. Congress was going to give them money for weapons—they are still dependent on the United States—but they did not anything, at least not officially. They still get some things under the table, but a little aid under the table is not the same as $100 million outright. That is important. Perhaps, without official aid, they will resume the negotiations.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] presidency?

[Tinoco] Excuse me?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Tinoco] I think Bush has been careful in his remarks. Not only Bush, but Shultz too. Yesterday, they did not even mention the contras, which is important.

[Reporter] Does this mean we can at last [words indistinct]

[Tinoco] It means that we, Central Americans, have greater hope in the way things are going.

Paraguayan Foreign Minister Warns of 'Distortions'
PY151135788 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
15 Nov 88 p 4

[Excerpt] San Salvador (El Salvador), 14 Nov—Paraguayan Foreign Minister Rodney Elpidio Acevedo has asked his Latin American colleagues to ensure that the 18th OAS Regular sessions be held within a climate of mutual respect and constructive dialogue, seeking to achieve a consensus that will facilitate the implementation of OAS projects and programs that will in turn favor a joint development in the region.

Acevedo, head of the Paraguayan delegation stressed and praised the spirit of unity and respect that prevailed during yesterday's session and which was entitled "Informal Dialogue." During this session the respective foreign ministers discussed issues of importance for the future of the OAS.

Acevedo also said that there are some commissions that violate, by their partial and disrespectful reports, the spirit of harmony that must prevail among member countries, referring to the OAS human rights commission in the respective countries. In its latest reports, this commission has repeatedly distorted the real situation of peace, progress, and democracy prevailing in the Republic of Paraguay, he said. [passage omitted]

Guatemalan President: No Summit This Year
PA1611231188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2106 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo today described the postponement of the Central American presidents summit on 25 and 26 September in El Salvador as a "historic fatal error." He added that the meeting will not be held this year.

Cerezo accused his Central American counterparts of "lacking the political commitment" to analyze and revitalize the Esquipulas II agreement for Central American peace, which they signed on 7 August 1987 in Guatemala City.

The Christian Democratic president told ACAN-EFE, "Central America should not wait for the new Bush government foreign policy to be reaffirmed before holding the presidential summit."

Cerezo said the area governments are "placing obstacles" in the summit's path because they hope the Bush administration will grant them economic aid.

He added "if there is a political commitment," on the part of his counterparts in the region, "the meeting could possibly be held in El Salvador in January 1989." However, he said for the time being, there has been no consensus on this.

"We Central Americans must show leadership and demonstrate that we can present our own proposals for solving our regional problems and bilateral conflicts without foreign interference," the Guatemalan president said.

Among the regional conflicts blocking the presidential summit, Cerezo mentioned the dispute between Honduras and Nicaragua, "Costa Rica's conservative traditionalism," the "warring forces" in Nicaragua, and the civil war in El Salvador.

The president said, "Only Guatemala has complied with Esquipulas II," which "has remained stagnant" in the areas' other countries.

"We have granted political amnesty; the National Reconciliation Commission was created and has already talked with the guerrillas; and we have approved the treaty to establish the Central American parliament," Cerezo said.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera today "urgently" stated to the OAS that the presidential summit be held so Esquipulas II can be implemented soon.

Cabrera opened the OAS assembly's third session. He noted the need for presidential talks, "so the peace process can continue to develop and increasingly serious incidents can be avoided."

Cuba

Castro Inaugurates Hospital Expansion

FL1611034588 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Speech by President Fidel Castro inaugurating expansion of Frank Pais Orthopedic Hospital in Havana on 15 November—recorded]

[Text] I could say that this [words indistinct], and I don't say this in a fatalistic sense, that I come here to inaugurate a construction project in this hospital. I say this is the last time because the hospital has been finished. I don't see much more space where expansions can continue.

The first construction project was the polyclinic. I think it was in 1976. Later there was construction on this hospital wing in this zone and other projects. I think this was in 1980. Last year in December, the factory next door was constructed. It manufactures prosthetic equipment—I think that's what it's called—and orthopedic instruments. Today we have concluded the total remodeling and expansion of the hospital.

We planned to finish this year, maybe even ahead of schedule but we had a serious problem with the theater. The construction of the theater was behind schedule. The plans did not yet exist. Besides this, we had to acquire certain material for the theater. It was necessary to ask for assistance even from the ICAI [no further expansion given], yes the ICAI, so that the construction of the theater could be accelerated. The construction of the theater threatened to last longer than the construction of this project. It threatened to delay this project.

All efforts were made... [changes thought]. It was the theater that indeed did delay for several months, or a few weeks, the inauguration of the hospital. I said categorically that I would not inaugurate the expansion until the last screw was in place in the theater. It was necessary to finish this project.

We are here among friends and guests. Perhaps this is not the best place to discuss our problems and difficulties or at least discuss them as freely as we do among ourselves. However, because of the confidence we have, we need to say something.

It appeared that this hospital was never going to be finished. This and many other projects threatened to take forever because of ideas and errors that we are overcoming. We see construction as a continuous project that cannot be held back. It has to have all the necessary resources from the beginning to the end.

Many of the people here are hospital directors from the capital, secretaries of the PCC committees in each of those hospitals, leaders, trade union secretaries, or people responsible for youths or nurses. They may remember that we met with them, in 1985 to analyze the subjective problems of the hospitals. We discussed what problems they had, and what was needed to improve our medical services. During that analysis with the participation of the leaders of 55 hospitals, we saw that there were not only subjective problems, there were also many objective problems.

While the revolution developed a great health program throughout the country, a very fair thing to do, and constructed many hospital installations throughout the length and width of the island beginning with the mountains... [changes thought]

I'm looking at the sky because I see a very black cloud and we would not like to receive our guests here with a great downpour. It seems likely to happen. If there is a meteorologist here he might be able to advise us on this matter.

I was saying that we worked throughout the country on a convenient and just project. However, the capital was forgotten as far as hospital construction was concerned.

As part of the obstacles that we were trying to overcome, we saw the fact that hospitals often needed construction material for maintenance and this helped us become aware of the situation.

From this profound analysis which lasted 2 days, we became convinced that a special effort had to be made with the hospitals in the capital. We had to guarantee all the materials needed for maintenance with absolute priority given to these projects. We developed an ambitious construction program that was indispensable.

Because of these problems, some hospitals lost some rooms. It was necessary to develop a program to recover all those rooms. At the same time, a global program was developed that provided an increase of no less than 5,000 beds in Havana.

I think I'm seeing the first raindrops. We should have held this ceremony in the famous theater. It might have been better. [laughs]

I mentioned a program of 5,000 new beds. That program is practically completed. This program has been going on for awhile, since December 1987. It includes the expansion, large expansions, of several hospitals. It also includes the completion of a new pediatric hospital and several construction projects, dozens of them, in every hospital. In a very short time, an extraordinary change has occurred in the material conditions of the hospitals in the capital.

Today we are inaugurating this hospital. We are finishing the Miguel Henriquez hospital, as well as the Albarran hospital, the new orthopedic hospital. Units and operating rooms—intensive care units and new operating rooms—are being finished in the Salvador Allende hospital. I have mentioned only some of the principal

projects. There are many that have been carried out in this short period of time and they will be finished by the end of December. It is possible that some will be delayed until January.

We have gone from a situation where projects were never finished. We have shown in a spectacular way the value of the new concepts and the rectification in the construction sector. For example, the Miguel Henriquez hospital, which is almost completed, has an enormous expansion that has tripled the hospital's rooms. It has been practically completed in 1 year.

In 1987, more than 800 holes were dug with (Benoto) machinery to dig up the gravel, the material needed. The land is swampy around the port of Havana. This is one of the characteristics of the land. It was necessary to lay stakes. First it was necessary to get the space. We had to relocate close to 200 families to new homes. Then we began digging. This was in 1987. Now in 1988, we have practically finished that enormous and valuable installation.

I think we have demonstrated unequivocally the proper concepts with which to approach construction tasks and this should always be the criteria for these projects.

As I said, the first expansion of this hospital was done in 1976. We built the other expansion in 1980. The expansion that remained to be built on this hospital was delayed. Noise was made here for almost 8 years. Dust and nuisances were also created. Sometimes neither was produced because no work was done. There were many projects underway. Under the old criteria, the projects could take forever.

This was one of the situations we analyzed at that meeting. We talked about this hospital. We firmly stated that if any project had to be finished in a minimal amount of time, it is a hospital expansion. It has more reason to be finished as soon as possible, in record time if possible, because all construction disturbs the work of a hospital.

We made a few calculations. One day I visited the hydrotherapy unit. I asked, how long has this hydrotherapy unit been under construction? The response was 7 years.

We also have to recognize our defects and not just discuss the good things. I think that the best thing is when we know how to rectify our errors.

What is the percentage of the completion of this project, I asked. The response was that it was 30 percent completed. I did some calculations and at that rate they would finish the hydromassage or hydrotherapy unit in 21 years. This is... [changes thought] I'm not going to say that all things were exactly like this but this is an example of what many projects were like.

Of course the hydrotherapy unit was finished in record time. Projects took forever to finish because of certain plans, materials, lack of workers, bad habits, old concepts, and mechanisms that did not work.

I think that we have acquired vast experience in these past 2 years and we have been able to demonstrate certain truths. With another focus, we can achieve other results and I think that the results are spectacular.

I haven't mentioned quality in all this. The projects not only took forever to finish but the quality was also very deficient. In reality, from an economic point of view, it was ruinous to waste gravel, cement, materials, labor, and machinery for 10 years and not have any practical results. As a result, the expansion plan was developed, this hospital program for the capital, and the results can now be seen.

You don't know what a burden we removed from ourselves. It's like we were carrying one of those buildings on our backs. We saw work constantly being done on the hospital and it was never finished. What a relief it is to have finished the hospital and in record time with excellent quality.

Castro Participates in Health Care Meeting

FL1711014288 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0004 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Report by Mercedes Hernandez and Gisela Bel Heredia from Havana's Palace of Conventions during "Exclusivo" program hosted by Daniel Torres—live]

[Text] [Hernandez] Good evening, Daniel. Good evening, Cuba.

As you said, we are here at the Palace of Conventions where a productive dialogue is currently underway between our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and the participants of the second international seminar on primary health care. The main topic of the seminar is "The Family Doctor: A Response to the Needs of the Community."

Fidel has spoken on several occasions. He said that at this time there are 6,211 family doctors in the country, 112 doctors in schools, and 114 in factories. Fidel pointed out the need to increase the number of permanent doctors in student and work centers.

We will now pass our microphones to Comrade Gisela Bel Heredia who is attending the plenary meeting in which our commander in chief is participating in a dialogue with the seminar participants.

[Bel] Yes, Mercedes, at this time the commander in chief is speaking with one of the Cuban specialists in general integral medicine. We'll listen to a portion of this dialogue.

[Castro] [Applause] I think this is admirable work. I don't know to what degree this has been made know. This is a new phase. It's a new type of research available to an integral medicine specialist and it will have enormous possibilities when we have thousands and thousands of specialists. We hope that they attain the same level you have acquired. They will be at a higher level in their fight for health. I hope that many will attain the same level you have reached.

There is also an economic aspect here. Costs will decrease with a reduction in the amount of medications, with less hospital admissions, and you can also add to this a reduction of time spent in the hospital. You said that this had to be done in relation to admissions but it has to be done in relation to the medications [word indistinct]...

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] Yes, there are state costs and individual costs. In reference to estimating the benefit to the individual, you are right. Medications cost less for older people.

[Castro] There are two things I would like to ask you. The first question is the following: You say you have 139 people, 24 percent of the population, over the age of 60, right? They are over the age of 60. How much time do you spend as a family doctor on that 24 percent?

[Speaker] Very little, very little, because I have them organized now. They don't get sick very often and [words indistinct].

[Castro, interrupting] [Words indistinct]

[Speaker] I can give you a percentage.

[Castro] But aren't they the ones who have the most problems? A large number of sick people are that age.

[Speaker] It was that way at first, yes. They can be diabetic but they are being treated. They can have high blood pressure but the are being treated. We only....

[Castro, interrupting] Then your work is reduced?

[Speaker] This reduces work for me in general. In the beginning, there may be a lot of work because I have to use a number of resources to do this.

[Castro] Doesn't that 24 percent take up at least 35 to 40 percent of your time?

[Speaker] Yes, in general, if they run a health risk.

[Castro] If they are running a health risk?

[Bell] [Castro continues to be heard in the background] Daniel, we would like to continue listening but we know that we have to go on to other news.

Speaks With Doctors

FL1711031688 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0049 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Report by Mercedes Hernandez from Havana's Palace of Conventions during "Exclusivo" program hosted by Daniel Torres—live]

[Text] [Hernandez] Greetings again from the Palace of Conventions. This is a big night for all the family doctors of our country. Daniel, we were privileged to hear several family doctors—who, by the way, are very young—describe some moving experiences. We have, for example, listened to a doctor from the Escambray who has reduced the infant and maternal mortality rate to zero where he is working.

Another doctor, who is working in a teacher training school, has achieved very good results and has gained experiences of great value.

Now, our commander in chief is speaking with a specialist in general integral medicine who works in a factory. Let's listen.

[Castro] I previously explained that work in schools and factories is still in the experimental stage. When you were put there... [changes thought] How long have you been there?

[Unidentified doctor] I have been there 1 year.

[Castro] You've been there for 1 year. Were you sent there to find a place for the clinic?

[Doctor] The clinic site was there because a doctor had already been there for 2 years....

[Castro, interrupting] Was he a family doctor?

[Doctor] He was a family doctor, just like myself.

[Castro] Oh, he was the same as you. You are there for 2 years?

[Doctor] Yes, I'm there for 2 years.

[Castro] You could not specialize because you were there for 2 years?

[Doctor] No, during those 2 years we do not study a specialty.

[Castro] Of course, you face the same situation as the doctors in the mountains. They don't have the facilities that doctors in the city have. At the end of their 1st year in the polyclinic, the city doctors begin their studies. That's why you have to rotate until the day when we have enough specialists to send permanently. That would be ideal.

Of course, we were discussing for some time what specialty the doctors in the schools and factories should study. We arrived at the conclusion that it should be general integral medicine.

That's why we rotate. There's no alternative to rotating so that you can study. But, perhaps at some point in the future, when we have specialists in general medicine, that doctor can study an additional specialty. A specialty that's related to his permanent job in a factory or school.

Now, the doctor that preceeded you already did his job there?

[Doctor] He did his job.

[Castro] You said that it was tough at first but someone ahead of you who had a tougher job.

[Doctor] Yes.

[Castro] You've been improving what he achieved.

[Doctor] We've been improving.

[Castro] In a population of 800 workers [corrects himself] a collective of 800 workers, how many people, more or less, come to see you daily? Not because of accidents but because of general health reasons.

[Doctor] On a light day in the clinic, I may see five or six workers. Usually, I have 14 patients. I do not have the figures...

[Castro, interrupting] They save themselves a trip to the polyclinic.

[Doctor] They do.

[Castro] Do they go there during the work period? They go there if they don't feel well or a problem comes up?

[Doctor] Yes, even the asthmatics. In this season of [words indistinct]

[Hernandez] Daniel, they have announced that there will soon be a break and then the meeting will resume. All signs indicate that the meeting will last several hours more.

Fire Interrupts Telephone Services in Havana

Extensive Damage Reported

FL1411145488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] A fire of moderate proportions, which was spreading, was detected around 2100 yesterday at the telephone enterprise building located at the corner of Aguila and (?Dragones) Streets in the Centro Habana Municipality. Six fire clusters were located. They extended mainly through the building's first three floors.

Jorge Lezcano Perez, first secretary of the PCC Provincial Committee in Havana, and members of the Interior Ministry's high command and the National Revolutionary Police went to the scene of the fire. [video shows firefighters trying to put out the blaze and Jorge Lezcano and other officials arriving]

The fire was described by specialists as very complex because of the large amount of toxic gases with a high concentration of lead coming out of the cables installed in the interior of the building. This made it difficult for members of the Fire Protection General Directorate to enter the building.

The main fire cluster was contained on the third floor around midnight and there was no imminent danger to neighboring buildings.

The Havana telephone enterprise reported that phone numbers which begin with 6, 60, 71, 62, and 66 were totally cut off because of the fire. The calls for phone numbers which begin with 65 were also interrupted.

In addition, it was reported that national center's long distance 00, 09, and 04 links are also affected, as well as the areas surrounding Havana which begin with 08 and 05. The morning, 113 information, and 112 assistance services were also disrupted as well as the 114 repair service for numbers which begin with 6 and 7.

Direct dial [teleseleccion] service should be used to place domestic long-distance calls from Havana. This can be done by dialing 5, the area code, and the desired number.

The Havana telephone enterprise asks the public not to place calls to the numbers beginning with 6, 00, 09, 04, 08, and 05 until it has been announced that service has been reestablished for those numbers.

Investigations Underway

FL1511044688 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0001 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Interview with Communications Minister Manuel Castillo Rabassa by Juan Carlos Roque Garcia at the command post of the Havana Telephone Enterprise during "Exclusivo" program—live]

[Text] [Roque] Minister, we know that the fire affected the third floor of the telephone center located at Aguila and Dragones. The blaze affected 28,600 lines and the distribution network. What has the fire affected the most?

[Castillo] This is the floor that holds most of the technical equipment of this Communications Ministry installation. This situation practically destroyed the phone center. The 28,600 lines and 34,000 telephones are totally out of order.

This center has to be replaced. It's condition is very bad and communications will be interrupted for a long time for state organizations, as well as the population.

[Roque] Minister, before we proceed to the measures, could you tell us if the cause of the fire is known?

[Castillo] Yes, the appropriate organizations are working on determining the cause. It is still under investigation. Communications Ministry workers have not yet begun their tasks because fire fighting efforts and the appropriate investigations are continuing.

[Roque] What are the first emergency measures that have been applied?

[Castillo] The ministry has just finished a meeting in which a certain number of measures have been adopted to primarily reestablish international communications through the principal routes. The cable networks that allow international communications also go through this building.

[Roque] When will international service be restored?

[Castillo] It has become necessary to move the cable network so that we can transfer them to another phone center. In this case, we'll move them to the Principe Center where a rotary switchboard will be set up so that organizations can call certain numbers to establish communications abroad. This service will be limited. This service, international communications, cannot be made available to the population. Service to the population will remain out of order until the phone center and the cable network, which is seriously damaged, are restored.

[Roque] How long does the ministry think this will last?

[Castillo] We have estimated that it will take 72 hours to restore some services to organizations. Limited international service should be restored within a week for state organizations.

We plan to resolve this situation within the next few months but because of the damage, and the cable network situation, it is necessary to suspend international service to the population until further notice, once the situation becomes clearer.

[Roque] Comrade minister, we also know that the transmissions from the international press agencies have been affected. Will this service also be prioritized?

[Castillo] At this time, we have established a monitoring system to receive some press agencies and to send this information to our organs. Work is being done to restore the telegraph system. It will take a few days to do this. Nevertheless, there are auxiliary methods that will allow our country's press to maintain an acceptable level of information.

[Roque] How long will it take to completely restore the center?

[Castillo] This center of 28,000 lines will take a long time to repair, from 10 to 1 year [corrects himself], from 10 months to 1 year. It is a complex, difficult installation. We have to reconstruct that floor and rebuild.

[Roque] During that time, will state and private phones from this center be without communications or will service be provided by an auxiliary plant?

[Castillo] Yes, we are setting up provisional installations so that very limited telephone service can be provided to state organizations, medical institutes, and public services. However, private phones will be completely out of order this year. I am referring to the users in Habana Vieja, Centro Habana, Habana del Este, and some in El Cerro, all of whom use this center. As long as it is not technically possible to replace it with a new center, the population will be affected for the rest of the year.

[Roque] In conclusion, could you tell us if other problems have been detected during the past few hours?

[Castillo] We can say that service to radio and television networks has not been significantly affected. Service here has been strengthened and a number of measures are being taken so that service can be totally restored as soon as possible, albeit limited. The interruption in service will be prolonged. We will try to expand public services as soon as possible.

Emergency Plan in Effect

FL1511034588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0001 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The damage from the fire that affected the telephone center at Aguila and Dragones in Havana is estimated to have affected 28,600 lines, putting 34,000 phones out of order. As of the time of our "Exclusivo" [name of newscast] broadcast, international communications are still down, including some satellite services.

Communications Minister Manuel Castillo Rabassa told "Exclusivo" this afternoon that Havana will have to face a setback in the development of its phone system.

Within 24 to 48 hours, preliminary international phone service will be restored, although it will be limited. Service to the population will not be restored for at least a year because considerable technical assemblage will be required to restore the plant.

We now give you the emergency phone plan that will be implemented immediately.

The following tasks will be fulfilled within the next 72 hours:

1. A new radio system will be installed to provide service to the organizations that have been affected.

2. Existing cables will be intersected to route the necessary wires to the second floor of the Aguilla plant and to begin outgoing international service to organizations and priority users.

3. Two rotary switchboards [pizarras rotativas] from another center will be installed to receive requests for long-distance service from state organizations.

Tasks that will be completed in a week include:

1. Minimal local telephone communications will be restored to priority organizations, such as the National Bank, international press agencies, hospitals, science academies, Transportation Ministry, and others.

2. The telegraph channel of the Meteorology Institute will be restored with the United States and a work post will be set up in the Communications Ministry to receive information from provinces.

3. Service will be restored to those organizations with the official 3-digit telephone number.

In 2 months, the tasks that will be completed include:

1. Restoral of service, totaling 500 lines, from the Principe and Vedado centers to the principal organizations and units that have been affected.

2. Two portable centers with 1,000 lines will be installed.

3. The Aguilla building will be prepared for the restoral of the lines damaged by the fire.

The tasks that will be completed in no less than 1 year include:

1. No less than 20,000 lines will be made available for the partial restoration of service. This equipment has already been purchased by Cuba.

Restoral Efforts Begun

FL1611161088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Communications Ministry workers have restored all radio link systems with centers that connect Cuba with the rest of the world. Main efforts are now focused on hooking up the international support center of transmissions of the Havana urban cable network.

It was also reported that some 100 pay phones will be installed in the Municipalities of Habana Vieja, Centro Habana, and part of El Cerro. These pay phones will be located in easy access places. The public will be able to make calls from there.

Many efforts are being made to provide some local communications services to state organizations located in those municipalities as soon as possible.

This communications interruption was caused by a fire at the National Telephone Enterprise which occurred on Sunday and damaged over 28,600 lines and affected some 35,000 telephones.

Ninth Round of Geneva Quadripartite Talks Ends

Withdrawal Timetable Complex

FL1711024288 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Report by Irma Caceres from Geneva, Switzerland]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Caceres] The ninth round of talks on the conflict in southwest Africa was held from 11-15 November. The Cuban delegation was headed by PCC Secretary Carlos Aldana. Ulises Rosales del Toro, first vice minister of the FAR and chief of the general staff, and other Cuban officials were also part of the delegation. [passage omitted]

As the Cuban representative left the meeting, journalists approached him.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter, in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] Do you have a comment for me, sir?

[Aldana, in Spanish with simultaneous English translation] We are satisfied. We are satisfied. [repeats himself] It has been very laborious, sometimes very tense. One cannot say that it has been easy. We are at the culminating moment of this process but we cannot say that we are at the final moment. Very important moments still remain and we are confident that the spirit that has prevailed here in Geneva will continue. With a constructive will, we now move to Brazzaville with particular satisfaction. Speaking on behalf of Cuba, our internationalist troops have not only contributed to the independence and integrity of Angola, but they have also contributed to the independence of Namibia. That's what I can tell you. [end recording]

[Caceres] However, the interests and demands of the journalists were greater. One of the problems was the timetable that was discussed. That is why we later spoke with Alcibiades Hidalgo, spokesman of the Cuban delegation.

[Begin Hidalgo recording] The timetable that has been discussed at the quadripartite talks is part of an agreement that has to be signed by the Governments of Cuba and Angola to withdraw Cuban internationalist troops from those African countries.

Just the fact that Angola and Cuba have held talks with South Africa allowing U. S. mediation has led to the terms of this timetable which is one of the principal contributions that the two countries have made to the negotiating process.

As seen, this process is complex, difficult. It has lasted several months. The Cuban delegation is truly satisfied with the results of this round of talks in Geneva.

The delegations' respective governments will now be consulted on the agreement that has been reached in principle on the timetable. It is an understanding that will lead to the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola in a period of over 2 years. In our opinion, it is a timetable that guarantees—because of its internal structure, the length of time for the withdrawal, the rate of the troop withdrawal, the pace of the established withdrawal—the internal security of Angola and the security of the Cuban forces themselves. These are the requirements that we have always said are indispensable for a satisfactory agreement.

The timetable is not the most favorable aspect, but during negotiations all parties should make concessions and compromise positions. This is what happened in Angola.

However, the timetable does allow us to guarantee a complex military operation. As you can imagine, the withdrawal of Cuban troops is an operation of large proportions. This involves sending to Cuba a contingent of 50,000 men, which is the number of Cuban internationalist soldiers and officials that are in Angola. It also involves returning military equipment and technology to Cuba, which for more than 13 years was sent to Angola. While the orderly and secure deployment and withdrawal of Cuban soldiers from Angola is underway, the normal troop changes will continue, as well as the scheduled vacation periods.

In this manner, we will be able to satisfactorily fulfill with honor and in an orderly fashion the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops, who have also contributed to the independence of Namibia. Because of this, we can say that they have doubly fulfilled their obligations. [end recording]

Aldana Comments

FL1611145488 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The ninth round of quadripartite negotiations on southwest Africa ended in Geneva last night with the release of a joint statement. The document described the talks as informal consultations and mentioned the points discussed. Among them are a timetable for the deployment of Cuban troops to northern Angola and its later gradual and total withdrawal. This operation will be based on an agreement reached between the Angolan and Cuban Governments.

The document reports that the delegations agreed to consult their respective governments on the timetable. According to the statement, the next round of negotiations will be held in Brazzaville, Congo.

Carlos Aldana, head of the Cuban delegation, said Cuba will go to that round with the same constructive spirit that prevailed in Geneva. Aldana asserted that the talks are at a turning point although this should not be interpreted as the final moment of the negotiations. He said more significant times are yet to come and he expects a constructive spirit for the next round in Brazzaville.

Aldana added that Cuba will go to the meeting with the special satisfaction that its internationalist troops not only contributed to the independence and unity of Angola, but also to Namibia's independence.

Upcoming Talks 'Historic'

FL1611170788 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1506 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Commentary by Fernando Delgado Ortega]

[Text] Although a date has not been set yet, the tenth round of quadripartite negotiations on southwest Africa to be held in Brazzaville, capital of the People's Republic of the Congo, could signify a historic decisive moment. At that same meeting, Angola, Cuba, and South Africa, with the mediation of the United States, must reach the final agreements which will put an end to the illegal racist occupation of southern Angola and of the Namibian territory.

The next quadripartite round of negotiations could also initiate the gradual and complete withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and achieve the application of UN Security Council resolution No 435 for the independence of Namibia—a mandate that the aggressive policy of South Africa has blocked for 10 years.

For over a decade, hundreds of thousands of Cubans have carried out their internationalist duty in the brotherland People's Republic of Angola. The motive for that noble and unselfish gesture is the defense of Angolan independence and territorial integrity. Doctors, teachers, engineers, technicians, and specialists from all sectors of the economy, along with our combatants, support the socioeconomic development of the Angolan brothers. That permanent defense of the conquests of the young African nation, the very existence of the revolution in Angola, and its ability to discuss, as equals, the cessation of the war, are reasons for satisfaction of our people. Now that the end to the conflict in southwestern Africa is approaching, we can feel proud of being internationalists because, peace in Angola and Namibia's independence are fruits of the unity of our peoples.

Havana Notes Relations With Soviet Union

FL1611185588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Minister, in statements to the press, has said that the Soviet Union considers that CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Cuba will be an important stage in the development of friendly relations between the two countries.

He added that this visit, which will take place during the first half of December, at the invitation of Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, will lead to the strengthening of bilateral cooperation. Gorbachev's trip to Cuba is highlighted by PRAVDA newspaper on its front page and is being reported by the Soviet radio and television.

Gorbachev's visit to Cuba takes place when processes of analyses and eradication of existing difficulties are taking place—with specific characteristics—in his country and ours, as well as in other socialist states. Contrary to speculations of the Western press, which considers differences a symptom of disagreements, Gorbachev and Fidel have noted the value of diversity of experiences and the distinctive traits of each process according to its history, idiosyncracies, and priorities. The two leaders believe that, together with differences, similarities in fundamental things are evident, as well as the understanding on the need to improve the socialist system in the Soviet Union and in Cuba.

Soviet authorities have expressed their willingness to continue strengthening cooperation with Cuba, which in the field of trade today amounts to some 8 billion rubbles a year, almost 50 times over the level reached in (?1980).

Minrex Recognizes Palestinian State

FL1611124088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The Cuban Foreign Ministry [Minrex] has released a statement in which our country supports and recognizes an independent Palestine state in the West Bank and Gaza territories, illegally occupied by Israel. The creation of a Palestinian state was proclaimed solemnly in the special meeting of the Palestine National Council held recently in Algiers.

In over 4 decades of heroic and dedicated struggle for their rights, these people have given singular examples of patriotism in their unequal confrontation with the Sionist state, says the Minrex note. It adds that this year's Palestinian uprising, known as [word indistinct]—admirable example of the will to obtain independence—increased international solidarity with the just cause of the Palestinian people.

The Minrex reiterates that the only way to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict is by holding an international peace conference in which all interested parties participate under equal conditions, including the PLO, as the only and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

GDR's Goetting Visits Santiago de Cuba

FL1611190788 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Gerald Goetting, chairman of the GDR's Friendship League Among Peoples, has visited Santiago de Cuba as part of his program of activities in our country at the invitation of the ICAP [Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples]. He was received at the airport by Yolanda (?Gonzalez) Bueno, representative of the ICAP in Santiago de Cuba. She gave Goetting a detailed briefing on the socioeconomic development of the territory. Later, he placed a floral wreath at the foot of the Jose Marti mausoleum and toured various centers of economic, scientific, and historic interest in the hero city.

Risquet Receives Goetting

FL1611190188 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Politburo, has received Gerald Goetting, chairman of the GDR's League for Friendship Among Peoples, in Havana. They held an exchange of views on current international issues and solidarity actions with the peoples needed nowdays.

Goetting Comments

FL1511031488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Severo Aguirre del Cristo, president [as heard] of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has received at that organization's headquarters, Mr Gerald Goetting, vice president of the Council of State and president of the League of Friendship Among Peoples, and Mr Lothar Guenther, secretary of the Christian Democratic Union Party [CDUP].

The distinguished visitors are in Havana at the invitation of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples. Mr Gerald [as heard], who is also chairman of the CDUP, said to Severo Aguirre that this visit will strengthen relations between both nations even more.

During their stay in Cuba, the GDR delegation will visit several places of interest in our country.

Soviet Naval Detachment in Cienfuegos

FL1611230888 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2039 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] This morning, the members of the Soviet naval detachment that is visiting our country completed the Mediterranean docking [where the stern of the ship is against the pier instead of having the side of the ship against the pier] maneuvers at the Cienfeugos industrial fishing docks.

Jose Ramon Garcia, president of the provincial Assembly of the People's Government in Cienfuegos, and (Viktor Pechukov), the USSR's consul general for the central provinces and Ciego de Avila, as well as other leaders, were present at the receiving ceremony.

Before entering the waters of the southern bay, the Soviet naval detachment had carried out, along with the Cuba's Navy, the combined exercise "Fighting Friend 88." The exercise's final step was to strengthen the nation's fighting ability.

The people of Cienfuegos will be able to visit the ships between 1500 and 1700 this afternoon, while the Soviet officers and sailors tour the pearl of the south.

Eight Million Tons of Sugar Planned for Harvest

FL1511164088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0037 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Commentary by Marcos Llanos Brena]

[Text] The most important productive drive in our country, the sugar harvest, begins once again. For various reasons, sugar production has decreased. This, together with low prices in the capitalist market, has had a strong impact in the slight availability of foreign currency.

A big harvest of no less than 8 million tons [of sugarcane] is expected. Sustained recovery in this area is important, not only because of its weight in our exports, but also in the production factors of many goods produced domestically. Only some 30 sugarmills will grind during 150 days. In order to aspire for large harvests, the 156 sugarmills in the country need to have cane for 5 months. This can only be achieved if sugarfields are properly cared for, if fields are replanted in order to achieve high production. This would yield no less than 80,000 arrobas of cane per caballeria.

Natural phenomena have masked deficiencies and negligence during the last few years. We have had a good rain season this year and there is enough raw material to yield 8 million tons of sugar. The big harvest the country needs is in the hands of the 400,000 sugar industry workers and, especially, of its leaders at all levels.

Caricom

Great Britain Announces Aid Package

FL1511201388 Bridgetown CANA in English 1812 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 12, CANA—Britain on Saturday announced aid to St Vincent, St Lucia and Grenada amounting to over 2 million dollars (one EC dollar - 37 U.S. cents).

The High Commission here said 1.2 million EC dollars would further assist St Vincent's community development programme. The money will be used for the 1987 United Kingdon/St Vincent loan for various projects including tools and equipment for a self-help scheme; the craft development side of an economic development programme and educational equipment and materials for a community education project. British High Commissioner Kevin Burns met with Prime Minister Compton of St Lucia yesterday to sign and exchange letters heralding the start of a west coast road improvment project. Arrangements for funding of the project for the improvement of the road from Tilcolon [place-name as received] to Anse La Raye are ready in hand to the tune of 1,780,188 pounds sterling from the United Kingdon/St Lucia loan of 1986 and 868,925 pounds sterling from the technical cooperation grant, the High Commission reported.

Britain is also to help with a contribution of EC888,500 dollars for Grenada's Grand Roy water scheme, planned to increase water supply and extend distribution in the area around the Grand Roy valley on the west coast. The scheme will reduce leadage and replace corroded distribution pipes, assisting supply to the villages of Mon Plaisir [place-name as received], Grand Roy, Marigot, Black bay, and part of Concord where the supply, particularly in the dry season, is inadequate to meet the needs of an increasing population.

Britain has also approved funding of EC48,000 dollars for furniture for Grenada's Richmond Hill prison. The prison has been expanded and improved with finance from the British government. Work has included the conversion and furnishing of the prison officers' quarters, construction of additional cells, improvements to the infirmary and the addition of a borstal block to house young offenders.

Haiti

Government Releases Report on Nov Massacre

FL1611135288 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Haiti's military Government has released a report on the massacre that disrupted elections last November. The report had been leaked earlier and it says the commission investigating the killing of 34 people could not name the killers. It is widely believed that members of the Tonton Macoutes were behind the massacre.

President Prosper Avril said that if the report proves to be incomplete he would order it completed. One opposition figure says a new investigation of the killings should be made.

Paul Family Members Interviewed
FL1411180888 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Interview with the late Jean-Claude Paul's family members (Micheline Carre), sister of Paul's wife Mireille Delinois, and Jean-Claude Paul Jr, his son; date and place not given; live or recorded in Creole—first paragraph is announcer's introduction in French]

[Excerpts] Three persons arrested since Sunday [6 November] in connection with the death of retired Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, the former commander of the Dessalines Barracks. [passage omitted] Among those arrested was the former commander's wife, Mrs Mireille Delinois. Mrs (Micheline Carre), who is Mireille Delinois' sister, initially told us that her sister was under police protection. She has since changed her story, and is complaining about the manner in which Mireille Delinois is being detained at the Petion-Ville barracks.

[Reporter] We have with us (Micheline Carre). The first time we talked to her, it was about.... [changes thought] I must tell you that she is here with two gentlemen. I think I should introduce Jean-Claude Paul Jr, who is here with us today. Jean-Claude is Colonel Paul's son. He too has a statement to make.

We will begin with (Micheline Carre), who, I repeat, is the sister of Mireille Delinois, who married Colonel Paul, then divorced him. (Micheline Carre), you said the other day, in a statement to Radio Metropole, that Mireille Delinois was under police protection. I get the impression you now have doubts about this. Will you explain exactly what doubts you have, and their basis.? What makes you think that she is not under police protection, but rather under arrest?

[(Carre)] First of all, with the awful scene that took place up there, I could understand very well why the police would want to take her into custody for protection. But I don't understand this protection. Her mother is not allowed to see her, nor is her lawyer or her sister. What kind of protection is that? I don't understand that kind of protection. And I don't like it, either!

[Reporter] Well, how did the police act when you went up there? Did they tell you officially, formally, that she is being kept in custody for her own protection? Or did their attitude lead you to believe that she is under arrest?

[(Carre)] The police are still saying the same thing: that she is there for her own protection. But I see that this is no longer true. It's just not possible. Why are her mother and sister not allowed to see her? There is tension in the air there. I don't know! She isn't there [Li pa la].

[Reporter] OK, they say they are holding your sister for her own protection. Can you tell us for protection against whom? Have you received threats?

[(Carre)] We ourselves have not received any threats. As I told you, Sunday, the family of the deceased made such a ruckus up there—trashing the house and hurling accusations and things like that—that I really did believe that she had been taken into custody for her own protection. But the police never did tell us against whom she was being protected. They just said she was in custody for her own protection.

[Reporter] Have there ever been any overt threats made by Col Paul's family?

[(Carre)] Not that I know of. I don't know. In any case, not to me. Maybe to someone else. But not as far as I know.

[Reporter] OK, I am hearing about another problem. According to certain sources, it seems that the health of Mireill Delinois, who has been locked up in the Petion-Ville barracks since Sunday, is not too good. Can you give us any details on this? Is this true?

[(Carre)] Yes, it's true. We have known since Wednesday that she is not well. Again yesterday, they told us that she wasn't well. She sent word that she is not well. When we took her food, the person who carried it inside to her told us that she was not well.

[Reporter] OK, so she isn't well; didn't you call a doctor to find out what is wrong with her? Is it something insignificant, or does it require a doctor's attention?

[(Carre)] Yes, we called a doctor for her. We did. [passage omitted]

I myself personally called the Paul family doctor whom my sister was willing to see. When the doctor arrived, he was told to wait for an Army doctor—that they had to see Mireille together. They did indeed see her together, and the military doctor was the first to say that she needed to be hospitalized. This doctor suggested Canape Vert Hospital because it seems she needed to be revived. So the military doctor told the commanding officer this. Then there was a (?counter-order). They said that no, they were no longer going to take her to Canape Vert Hospital, but rather to the military hospital. Then there was another counter-order issued, saying to leave her where she was. And there you have it. Up to this morning, she is still there, with no medical care.

[Reporter] When you say still there, where do you mean? Did they take her to the hospital, or is she still there at the barracks in Petion-Ville?

[(Carre)] They didn't take her to the hospital. She is still at the barracks.

[Reporter] Can you tell me [words indistinct]?

[(Carre)] Yes, I will tell you exactly what the doctor said. The doctor said, first of all, that she had a pulmonary fever [fievre pulmonaire]. Second, she was dehydrated. Third, she was in a state of pre-shock because her blood pressure had dropped. Fourth, she was in a semi-coma because she didn't even know what day it was when the doctor talked to her.

[Reporter] I am not a doctor, but it seems to me that a case like that requires hospitalization. What have members of her family decided to do? Are you going to appeal to the Justice Department? What are you going to do?

[(Carre)]) Yes, we are going to do absolutely everything we can. That is why we are alerting the public because she needs medical care. She needs to be taken care of.

[Reporter] All right. Now we are going to talk to Jean-Claude Paul, Jr. He is 12-years-old. He is going to explain to us...[changes thought] because several Port-au-Prince newspapers are saying that he made statements—and I think it was broadcast over Radio Metropole too—to the effect that he had drunk from exactly the same soup as his father, the soup said to have killed Jean-Claude Paul Sr.

Jean-Claude Paul Jr, can you tell us exactly how things happened? Can you tell us if this is true?

[Jean-Claude] No, I don't think it's true because we drank out of the same bowl of soup, and if that is what killed my father, how come I'm still alive? I drank out of that same soup too.

[Reporter] Did you drink soup from the same serving bowl? Or did you drink from the same soupbowl as your father?

[Jean-Claude] No, I drank from the same bowl. There was a single big serving bowl, that nobody touched. It was on the stove. Nobody ever touched it. Only my father and I drank from it.

[Reporter] There are stories to the effect that there were two soups prepared. Did you notice two soups being prepared on that day?

[Jean-Claude] No, no. Because the maid wasn't there. And my mother was in bed because she had a little fever. So who else could fix soup?

[Reporter] Apart from the maids, do many other people have access to the kitchen? Are there many other people who could come and go?

[Jean-Claude] No. No. No. There is a lot of security, and there is no way that anyone else could get in—without our knowledge, I mean.

[Reporter] You said there was a lot of security. Could these agents go inside and wander about the house at will?

[Jean-Claude] Yes. Yes. Yes, sure, because they were on duty all the time, they would guard the entire house.

[Reporter] I'm going to ask you a question that is a bit personal. You know, some people say that maybe your father and your mother were fighting and that might have been the reason for your mother to kill him. Do you think they might have had a personal problem which might have lead to something like this?

[Jean-Claude] No. No, because we were going to the beach. It was because my mother had a little fever and she was lying down, and said: Ah, let's go to Kenscoff instead. And my father said: Ok, fine. My father came back so we could go to Kenscoff. He drank two spoonfuls of soup. Then he went upstairs. He was tired. People had come to see him and he said didn't feel like seeing anybody; he was tired. And he fell asleep. And I left. And then I heard that he died.

But before he died, I heard that my mother had called Jou-Jou Paul, my uncle. He came. And then I heard that my father had asked my uncle to take him to the hospital. Jou-Jou told him to wait a minute—that he was praying for my father. They prayed and prayed, for at least 5 to 10 minutes. Then I heard that my father said: Take me to the hospital, please. I think he begged him. Well, not begged him, but asked him a lot.

After that Jou-Jou came down and began preparing. And (?as soon as he) he went upstairs, I heard....[changes thought] I don't know the rest. It's the same story.

[Reporter] You know, Jean-Claude, there are many ugly rumors about your father's finding this incident bizarre; they might want to accuse your mother of poisoning your father. Have your father's family members really harassed you? Have you been threatened? What's their attitude toward you?

[Jean-Claude] Well, they are nice to me. I can call the house at any time and talk to anyone I want. They have been telling me to come over, that it's my father's house and their house, and the house belongs to them and I can do whatever I want with it.

[Reporter] However, you are currently at the Delinois'. What do you want to do?

[Jean-Claude] Well, if it were up to me, I would wait for everything to calm down and then I would go get my things, from my father's house, to see how my uncles are going to react—to see if they are going to continue to be hostile, for example, and continue to make false accusations. And if they continue, I will gather my belongings and leave, until they stop making false accusations.

[Reporter] OK, one last question. You know, there are many people listening to you over the radio right now. What kind of appeal would you like to make to the public?

[Jean-Claude] Well, I would say that everyone has his own opinion, but the truth always comes out in the end. The people circulating rumors about my mother... [changes thought] for people not to let themselves be taken in by ugly rumors.

[Reporter] Do you have any idea who could have done this to your father? Did your father have any problems with anybody? Did he have enemies?

[Jean-Claude] Well, because he was a political figure he had many enemies. As the papers said.... [changes thought] Yes, he had many enemies.

[Reporter] What do you, personally, think?

[Jean-Claude] Well, I think that it might have been stress and all that. Stress can kill someone. My father was under a lot of stress. He had problems on his farm, government problems, political problems. So, maybe the stress was overwhelming and then.... [incomplete sentence as heard]

Because if you think about it he used to go to bed early, like the chickens. He would be fast asleep by 1930. And for some time now, I noticed that he was not getting to bed until midnight or 0100, and that he couldn't sleep, things like that. He wasn't eating, and was always taking vitamins and so forth. But he was in perfect health. But he was under a bit of stress. And I think that's what killed him. I don't think it was any poison. [passage omitted]

I would like to call on General Avril, who was a good friend of my father's, and whose kids I know, to say that I can't lose both my father and mother in a single week, and to tell him that my mother is sick. He has to send my mother home because this kind of thing is no good. He has to either send my mother to the hospital or let her come home.[end recording] [passage omitted]

Paul's Widow Seeks Release

FL1711003988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 16 Nov

[Text] In a letter to General Prosper Avril, head of the military government, Mireille Delinois, wife of deceased Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, vehemently protests imprisonment at the Petion-Ville barracks. Mrs Delinois says in the letter that she did not ask anyone to protect her—she did not ask for protection from the police. She accuses Port-au-Prince Police Chief Colonel Georges Valcin of abusing his power, by keeping her and two other people—Mrs (Heureuse Cyprien) and (Louis Jeune Inelus), who worked in her house—imprisoned. Mrs Delinois asks that she and the other two people imprisoned in connection with her husband's death be released immediately; and she accuses Antonio Paul, one of the Paul brothers, of complicity in the death of Col Jean-Claude Paul.

Mrs Delinois also asks that action be set in motion against Antonio and Emmanuel Paul, both brothers [of Col Jean-Claude Paul].

Bonnet Death Investigated; Airport Remains Open

FL1611213088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpts] A military investigating committee yesterday began an investigation into the murder of Louis-Marie Bonnet. According to rumors, certain members of the 52d Company had threatened the victim. We have a report to the effect that at least two officers from the 52d Company implicated in the murder of Louis-Marie Bonnet last Thursday off Delmas 29 have been arrested. However, it is reported that no evidence against these suspects has as yet been found.

Still in connection with Mr Bonnet's murder, immigration and emigration inspectors at Mais Gate Airport in Port-au-Prince are indignant and alarmed by the cowardly and cruel murder of one of their colleagues, Bonnet. They protest this act, and express the hope that it will not go unpunished. [passage omitted]

Consequently, they announce to the public in general and to everyone affected in particular—especially the airlines and the travel agencies—that today, Wednesday, 16 November, the day of the victim's funeral, they are going to observe a work stoppage, for a day of reflection on the fate of immigration and emigration inspectors and on their working conditions. [passage omitted]

We remind listeners that we learned at the last minute that Mais Gate International Airport in Port-au-Prince is functioning normally today. According to information from the airport, all airlines are now operating normally, and flights are entering and leaving Haiti as usual.

Belize

Labor Minister To Retire; Possible Successors

FL1511035988 Bridgetown CANA in English 2006 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Belmopan, Belize, Nov 14, CANA—Ageing Belize Government Parliamentarian Philip Goldson, a senior member of Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel's United Democratic Party (UDP), has announced he will not seek another five-year term in office. The 66-year-old Goldson, who is blind, has been Minister of Labour and Social Services since the UDP won the last elections in 1984. [passage omitted]

Goldson's campaign committee in his Albert constituency in Belize City has announced that he has already endorsed a Belize City attorney, Bernard Pitts, as the UDP candidate to succeed him.

Pitts, who is a member of the ruling party and a city councillor in the UDP solid Belize City Council, is however expected to be challenged by a man who sources here say has been picked by Prime Minister Esquivel.

There have also been reports that the Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dean Barrow, may be ready to resign from active politics, but he told CANA any such announcement now would be premature.

Costa Rica

Finance Minister on 1989 Economic Adjustments

PA1711023288 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Next year's economic adjustments will be aimed at reducing inflation, Finance Minister Fernando Naranjo has said. The adjustments will be aimed at reducing inflation to 15 percent. Achieving this goal is possible because we do not expect to face the same circumstances that we faced this year, the finance minister said.

A series of events this year were mainly responsible for the increase in inflation, Finance Minister Fernando Naranjo said. The most drastic adjustments were made this year and it is expected that they will not be repeated in 1989. He said, for example, that there would not be any drastic currency devaluations. In addition, we will not have to deal with the financial crisis we faced at the beginning of the year which forced us to print money, Naranjo said. On the other hand, the finance minister said that no adjustments will be made to restrict imports because they only increased by 1 percent this year.

Finance Minister Naranjo said some additional economic measures must be taken, measures aimed at maintaining economic growth. He noted that the Costa Rican economy has grown by 4 percent and that this growth rate has continued. Naranjo added that important variables, such as unemployment, are some of the most favorable in Latin America and that, in general, our economy is growing.

New Weekly Begins Publication 14 Nov

PA1611033988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2311 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] San Jose, 14 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The new weekly ESTA SEMANA began circulating in Costa Rica today. The paper is intended to offer a "new option" to professionals and experts. The new weekly carries general information.

According to a press release, the new paper is a black and white, 24-page tabloid designed to get the attention of urban dwellers, "especially professionals and experts, to meet their information needs."

Journalist Oscar Hidalgo, director of the new weekly, told ACAN-EFE that the new weekly is characterized by a "sober, deep, and high-quality journalistic style," which will cover "all local current events."

The first issue of ESTA SEMANA carries sections dedicated to science, technology, politics, economics, social events, education, communications, weather, international current events, arts and entertainment, music, dancing, and sports.

El Salvador

PDC Dissidents Occupy Electoral Council Office

PA1611130188 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] San Salvador, ACAN-EFE—Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, a dissident politician of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], and other PDC deputies peacefully occupied the Central Electoral Council's [CCE] office in San Salvador yesterday, demanding the right to participate in the political process. They announced they will not leave the CCE office until electoral officials approve the creation of the Authentic Christian Movement, MAC, which groups dissidents of the PDC—the ruling party—and members of another party, the Stable Centrist Republican Movement.

A spokesman for the CCE, the highest electoral body, said the MAC's registration has not been decided because the group's request has not been studied yet, adding that the CCE has nothing against that new party.

Dolores Henriquez, a MAC deputy and leader, noted that the deputies will remain at the CCE office until they get a response on the status of the new party.

Rey Prendes, who formed the PDC with President Jose Napoleon Duarte in the sixties, left the PDC a few months ago when Fidel Chavez Mena was nominated PDC presidential candidate. Rey Prendes maintained

that Chavez Mena's nomination was a fraud, and this prompted him to form the new dissident group with 16 Legislative Assembly deputies.

Presidential elections will be held in the 2d week of March 1989, and the election campaign will officially begin on Saturday, 19 November.

PDC Decides on Vice Presidential Candidate

PA1511181988 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] this evening selected Roberto Barrientos as its vice presidential candidate for next year's elections.

Barrientos, who is the manager of the Cuscatlan Bank as well as a university professor, was chosen by the PDC Executive Committee.

With the selection of Barrientos as the running mate of presidential candidate Fidel Chavez Mena, the most important political parties have chosen their candidates for the coming presidential elections.

The PDC had been looking for a vice presidential candidate for weeks and this evening the party's Executive Committee decided to select Roberto Barrientos.

Parties Give Document Rejecting Violence to OAS

PA1611223388 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Six political parties, not including ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and the Democratic Convergence, this afternoon presented to OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares a document signed by them to be given to the foreign ministers and heads of delegations participating in the 18th OAS General Assembly. The document rejects the use of violence as a means to achieve power.

[Begin Communications Minister Roberto Viera recording] Basically, we want the OAS to agree that what our country really needs to solve its problems is a democratic system. We believe that we do not need a solution that uses weapons or terrorism. The solution calls for political involvement through legal mechanisms; it includes consulting the people; winning their votes. That is really the way to obtain political power in our country; not through the use of weapons.

That is our basic stand. Our political parties, which have ideological, structural, and political differences, today presented this document to the OAS. Undoubtedly, it reflects a certain degree of political maturity in our country. [end recording]

Roberto Viera said that now is the time for the OAS to take a stand on this issue. He added that Ambassador Baena Soares shares the opinion of the political parties expressed in the document they presented.

Legislative Assembly Amends Electoral Code

PA1411155688 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 12 Nov 88 p 54

[Text] Last night, the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly approved by an absolute majority the 46 articles amending the Electoral Code. The goal was to ensure the honesty of the elections and impartiality in enforcing the law.

The parliamentary blocs of the Christian Democratic Party and the National Conciliation Party, which had criticized the amendments, did not attend the debate. In their absence, the deputies of the ARENA and the MAC approved the amendments in the first debate; that is, as a whole, by 42 votes.

Later, the two parliamentary blocs debated each article in a serious and respectful manner. The most important reforms deal with the establishment of the unaminity rule in the CCE, raising to five the number of members of the representatives of the parties at the polling boards, and voiding votes that are challenged.

The deputies participating the most to improve the text and content of the amendments were Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, Jose Francisco Guerrero, Adolfo Rey Prendes, and Mauricio Mazier Andino.

According to the reforms, the polling, departmental, and municipal boards will comprise five delegates and their alternates. The CCE will name them based on proposals by the political parties. Four of these delegates will belong to the political parties represented at the National Assembly and the fifth delegate will be picked at random from the parties participating in the elections. In addition, if there are runoff presidential elections, only the participating political parties or coalitions will comprise the aforementioned boards.

Another important change is that the parties that decide to form a coalition can agree on the use of a single symbol or independently use the symbols of each party. The current code forced the parties that formed coalitions to adopt a single party flag.

Maj Roberto D'Aubuisson explained to the session that the elimination of contested votes is important because these were used in the past elections to confuse the final results. That is why the following was added to the final point of Article 195: "Votes for each contending political party or coalition will be considered valid if they meet the requirements of the law and if the will of the voter is clearly expressed by any mark on the flag of each party or coalition."

The following was also added: "Null votes will be those cast outside the numeration corresponding to that of the vote receiving boards or those that do not clearly show the voter's will in favor of a specific political party or coalition, because they have two or more marks on the flag of each party or coalition."

The Electoral Code amendments approved last night by the assembly could be vetoed by President Duarte, but the assembly could again pass them with the votes of ARENA and MAC. Therefore, they will form part of the country's laws.

There were some differences in the debates, but at no time did the arguments become heated or whimsical. They dealt with the legal framework of the electoral law so the next elections will be honest.

Maj D'Aubuisson played a very important role because he explained the spirit behind the amendments. It was one of the most serious and professional sessions in the past few months.

Colonel Ponce Describes FMLN Truce as 'Trick'

PA1511185588 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Report by Alfredo Villareal—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, Armed Forces chief of staff, said this morning that he will not stop military operations despite the truce announced by the FMLN. He said the marches scheduled to take place this week are part of a rebel plan to attract the attention of OAS officials:

"The truce is a trick to fool Salvadorans and foreigners alike."

Despite the church's call for the Army to accept the truce declared by the guerrillas, Col Ponce reiterated the Armed Force's position and said the military is fulfilling its constitutional duty. He said he has not received any instructions from the commander in chief, President Duarte, to accept a temporary cease-fire:

"For 5 days, from 13 to 18 November, we are not going to see mayors being murdered and mayors' offices, electric towers, and other facilities being destroyed. The terrorist actions usually carried out in the cities and the countryside will not take place during these 5 days. We probably will not see car bombs in San Salvador. The truce, however, says nothing about eliminating the mass mobilization operations, which are another aspect of the FMLN's revolutionary war.

"The Army has a constitutional duty, and so far the Armed Forces have received no instructions from their commander ordering a cease-fire.

"It is the terrorists who are waging war, and it is good they have declared a truce so that the people may have peace."

The new military commander, who has been in command of the chiefs of staff for 14 days, said military intelligence discovered during an operation at the San Salvador Volcano a guerrilla plan called Gusano, which calls for the destruction of power plants. He said the Army is expecting a rebel military operation known as the Situation Plan, which includes mass movements and demonstrations this week:

"Now they are implementing the Situation Plan. Taking advantage of the presence of the delegates who have come to El Salvador for the OAS General Assembly meeting, the UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers] and the Bread, Land, Work, and Freedom Movement—which supposedly will replace the UNTS later on—have organized a large march for peace. They are trying to take advantage of the peaceful intentions of all the Salvadoran people and our desire for peace.

"What they really want to do with the march, however, is to provoke the public security forces and the units in charge of security in the capital so that OAS officials will see us as repressors."

The Army is implementing its America counterinsurgency plan, with approximately 2,000 men providing security for events taking place in San Salvador, especially the OAS General Assembly meeting.

Coprefa Claims FMLN Unilateral Truce Violated

PA1511174488 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Coprefa announced today that the FMLN has broken the truce the rebels had unilaterally declared during the annual OAS General Assembly meeting, which is taking place in San Salvador.

According to military reports, FMLN guerrillas ambushed a military truck near Apaneca last night, wounding a soldier. Army sources also reported that rebel units harassed 5th Army Brigade positions near San Sebastian Catarina this morning.

One soldier was killed and five were wounded Saturday evening when they were attacked by rebels while patrolling the city of Sesori, San Miguel Department.

FMLN Commander Villalobos Visits Mexico

PA1311203388 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Interview with FMLN Commander Joaquin Villalobos by unidentified Salvadoran Press Agency reporter in Mexico City on 11 November—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What is the purpose of your visit to Mexico?

[Villalobos] This visit is part of an exchange initiated several weeks ago between various Latin American governments and political forces. The purpose is to inform Latin America of the situation in El Salvador; we believe the role played by the region and especially by countries like Mexico—which have shown special interest in El Salvador—could be essential. We are also seeking a political solution to the country's problem.

[Reporter] With whom will you meet?

[Villalobos] So far I have been informed we will meet with Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda and the press.

[Reporter] What are your feelings regarding this Latin American tour?

[Villalobos] My feelings are positive. We have discovered an interest in our view of the situation, in uniting to solve the Salvadoran and Central American conflict, and some measure of agreement with our opinion regarding factors that hinder the possibility of a political solution in El Salvador.

Honduran Army Accused of Incursions, Torture

PA1411121888 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Text] The Honduran Army is violating the rights of the people of El Salvador, according to a report that has reached us from heroic Chalatenango Department. On 7, 8, and 9 November, special forces from the Honduran Army carried out a campaign to terrorize the people harvesting their cabbage and potato crops or working as lumberjacks in an area called Las Barracas, Jocotan Jurisdiction, Ocotepeque Department in Honduras. This area is adjacent to Valle de Jesus, La Granadilla, and Las Pilas Cantons and the capital of San Ignacio Municipality in Chalatenango Department. More than 22 people were arrested, including Margarita Monjira, Tomas Monjira, Jose Fuentes, Arturo Santamaria, Carlos Flores, Manuel Chacon, Mundo Pleite, Jorge Portillo, Tomas Portillo, Oscar Monjira, and Erninda Lopez, his wife, a woman named [passage indistinct] are carried out in total coordination with the criminal Salvadoran Army. Our compatriots are cruelly tortured.

On 28 October, Honduran troops took two residents of San Fernando, in the [name indistinct] area and took them to (?Acuitayo). They were released on 6 November, after they had been cruelly tortured by the same [word indistinct].

On 22 October, another Honduran Army unit entered Salvadoran territory, namely San Fernando, and [words indistinct]. We call on the residents of the area on the border with Honduras to continue denouncing [words indistinct] for the defense of our sovereignty and social justice.

Coprefa Reports Death of Guerrilla Commander

PA1011200288 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Text] Coprefa has reported the death within the last few hours of five guerrillas, including one commander. According to Coprefa, the FMLN guerrilla commander known as Geronimo was killed yesterday along with four of his comrades in a firefight with troops of the 6th Infantry Brigade. The clash occurred near the village of (Valle la Quesada), Tecapan Jurisdiction, Usulutan Department.

The Army also reported capturing one rebel in Villa Victoria, Cabanas Department, and accused the FMLN of kidnapping one peasant in the town of Las Delicias de Concepcion, Cabanas Department.

FMLN Attack on Delicias de Concepcion Cited

PA1111030888 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 9 Nov 88 p 3, 37

[Text] The guerrillas who attacked Delicias de Concepcion left behind Soviet fragmentation grenades, Claymore mines, communication radios, and several rifles. Civil Defense soldiers resisted the attack by some 200 FMLN-FDR extremists who wanted to destroy the local offices of the National Administration for Telecommunications, the mayoralty, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. Spokesmen for Military Detachment No 4 made the report.

Several private homes were damaged by the explosive devices hurled by the FMLN-FDR extremists.

Additionally, several town residents were injured. They were taken to a Morazan Department health center. The devices, ammunition, grenades, and rifles seized by the Military Detachment No 4 soldiers were sent to that detachment's garrison, headquartered in Morazan Department.

FMLN Reports 8 Nov Ambushes on Army Trucks

PA1111030388 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 10 November broadcasts approximately 10 minutes of reports on recent FMLN actions.

The station first reports that FMLN units ambushed a truck heading from El Tule to Acajutla on the northern trunk highway in Chalatenango Department at 1545 on 8 November. According to the station, one of the rebels' mines destroyed the military vehicle, which was carrying "25 apes from the 4th Infantry Brigade." Venceremos adds that the rebels inflicted eight casualties on the Army in the ambush.

The station also reports a second FMLN ambush at 0800 on the same day, this time on a truck transporting troops from Military Detachment No 2, "commanded by the gorilla Herrarte." It indicates that the ambush occurred on the Sensuntepeque-Ilobasco highway, in La Quesera,

Cabanas Department. The station adds that the rebels used two mines in the attack, partially destroying the vehicle and killing 5 soldiers.

Further Clashes Reported

PA1411043688 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 2300 GMT on 11 Nov carries 6 minutes of reports on clashes with the Salvadoran Army. In the first report, the Modesto Ramirez Central Front states that a guerrilla unit clashed at 0715 on 11 November with San Carlos Battalion troops in San Jose Guayabal, Cuscatlan Department. In this clash, the FMLN claims it inflicted nine casualties on the Army.

In another operation, the Feliciano Ama Front states that at 0645 on 11 November, an FMLN guerrilla unit ambushed the troops of Colonel Benjamin Ramos, 2d Infantry Battalion chief. The ambush took place on the road from Guarnecia to Los Horcones, near Las Negritas village, Texistepeque Jurisdiction, Santa Ana Department. The "preliminary results" indicate the Army sustained 5 casualties, including one sergeant and one radio operator who were killed.

Army Dismantles Guerrilla Camp, Defuses Mines

PA1111033988 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Spokesmen for Department 5 of the 6th Infantry Brigade have reported that personnel of Lempa Battalion's 4th Company have dismantled a guerrilla camp on San Felipe estate, San Francisco Javier Jurisdiction, Department 5.

The following materiel was seized: 14 antipersonnel mines, 2 olive drab uniforms, 2 camouflage shirts, 3 black scarves, and other military equipment.

The same sources said Oromontique Battalion patrols have deactivated six antipersonnel mines in the Jucuaran area.

Finally, the source said residents of the Berlin area have reported that youths are being kidnapped and forced to join the FMLN.

Guerrilla Activity 'Reduced' in Chalatenango

PA1211185188 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Nov 88

[Report by Ernesto Rivas from Chalatenango; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] The commanders of the 4th Infantry Brigade and of Military Detachment No 1 said today that the Armed Forces control the northern Chalatenango Department. According to them, the guerrillas only carry out propaganda actions in that part of the country to intimidate municipal mayors and the civilian population.

The 4th Infantry Brigade commander said that guerrilla activity in Chalatenango Department has been reduced by at least 90 percent. He added that this reduction in guerrilla activity has been possible with support from the Air Force, Navy, Artillery, and Cavalry forces, and various rapid deployment battalions in military operations. [passage omitted]

[Rivas] "How many casualties have there been, including both guerrillas and soldiers?"

[Brigade commander] "I do not have the exact figures, but since the El Paraiso Heroes campaign began in April, approximately 158 terrorists have been killed and more or less the same number of terrorists have been wounded." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the commander of Military Detachment No 1, also in Chalatenango, strongly condemned the murder of mayors by the FMLN.

[Detachment commander] "Those terrorist actions are aimed at undermining the local municipal governments, which oppose the terrorist strategy that calls for implementing the guerrillas' own style of government. They do not want any interference from civilian authorities, much less from the military. Those actions are designed to intimidate those who wish to work with the mayors, particularly in the Chalatenango'88 program, which is a program to consolidate democracy with the participation of the entire population." [passage omitted]

Although Chalatenango is known to be an area where much guerrilla activity has taken place during the 8 years of war in our country, both commanders claimed that the military operations carried out by their troops have forced the guerrillas to leave the department. However, on 13 September the guerillas carried out their third attack on the 4th Infantry Brigade headquarters.

Guatemala

Guerrillas Reportedly Cause 66 Army Casualties

PA1611233588 Paris AFP in Spanish 0550 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] San Jose, 14 Nov (AFP)—Guatemalan guerrillas today said they inflicted a total of 66 casualties on the Army in clashes in central Guatemala between 8 and 10 November.

According to a dispatch from CERIGUA, a news agency linked to the rebels, the guerrillas said six of these casualties were inflicted during a harassment operation in the Finca El Rincon area and on the road between Washington and Milan farms in Suchitepequez Department on 8 November.

The rebels said they inflicted 40 casualties on the Army during a 10 November attack on a military convoy in the same department. The convoy was returning from Las Micias farm, where part of a military contingent taking part in a counterinsurgency operation was stationed.

The report added that 20 more casualties were inflicted the same day in a rebel action carried out in Socorro village, located in the same region.

* Details of Proposed 1989 Budget Reported

* Budget Criticized

32480011A Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Sep 88 pp 2, 50

[Text] The president of the Republic will have available 77.7 million quetzales under the nation's new budget, which will enable him to spend about 294,484.43 quetzales each working day next year, the leader of the National Centrist Union (UCN), Jorge Canale Nanne, asserted yesterday.

Referring to the budgets of the past 3 years, Canale Nanne said that the DC [Christian Democracy] congressmen passed the bills just as the Executive Branch submitted them and that some deputies did not even bother to read them, even though the budget comes out of the pockets of the Guatemalan people, whom they supposedly represent.

Such irresponsibility, he said, has gone unnoticed by many Guatemalans, while others have not cared. Let us hope, he added, that the ruling-party deputies and the coalition deputies become aware of their responsibility as representatives when they approve expenditures of other people's money and that the Guatemalan people become involved in national life when they realize that it is their money that officials spend.

My comments about the 1989 budget are meant to be discussed publicly, both by Congress and by the Guatemalan people, added the political leader, who made the following remarks.

Budget

The general expenditures budget for 1989 totals 3,648,089,767 quetzales, of which 1,848,413,075, or 50.67 percent, is for government operations or spending; 765,200,000 for the public debt; 360,700,387 for transfers of capital; and just 673,756,305 for direct capital expenditures.

Is this the way that the government plans to pay the so-called social debt? Is it proper that while we have to tighten our belts because of increases in the cost of living caused largely by the government, the government endeavors to push through an exaggerated increase in its own expenditures budget?

Did high-level officials cut their own salaries? Will this large budget cause inflation?

Office of President

The budget for the office of president was increased 38.17 percent, and thus the administration will be able to spend 36,810.55 quetzales every working hour. It is noteworthy that among operating costs 10,850,177 quetzales has been allocated for the payment of nonpersonal services, including binding and printing costs, per diem allowances and rents; 850,000 quetzales for the acquisition of real estate; 10,676,687 quetzales for the procurement of materials and supplies; 670,548 quetzales for machinery and equipment; 1,581,560 quetzales for direct transfers to individuals; 3,418,417 quetzales for overall appropriations, and 9,316,340 quetzales for capital spending, which will be divided between the Secretariat of Social Welfare and the National Reconstruction Committee.

What real estate does the presidency of the Republic need to buy? Are all of these outlays really necessary?

Foreign Relations

The budget of the Foreign Relations Ministry is also too high, as it will total 4,924,000 quetzales; in other words, the foreign minister will be able to spend 19,850.38 each working hour. What is noteworthy is that practically this entire budget is for operations, inasmuch as only 613,201 quetzales are allocated for capital expenditures.

Also striking, among others, are the categories of "overall appropriations and miscellaneous spending," which is assigned 9,920,147 quetzales, and credits to be applied, which has 3,222,188 quetzales.

How will this 13.1 million quetzales in overall appropriations and credits to be applied be monitored?

Development Ministry

The budget of the Development Ministry was boosted by 12.3 percent. Of the total, 19,790,771 quetzales are for operations, while 8,900,306 go to pay for services, including publicity, per diem allowances at home and abroad, rents and the contracting of technical studies and advisory services for the community organization program in rural areas.

In addition, 1,833,821 quetzales are allocated for overall appropriations, miscellaneous outlays, hospitality, entertainment and credits to be applied. Another 6,133,128 quetzales have been earmarked for the construction of bridges for vehicles, local roads, lavatories, training centers, local centers, the provision of drinking water and the budget for raising swines in Quiche.

Why is this ministry taking on the responsibilities of the Ministry of Communications by doing construction, or do these projects have a political purpose? What sort of

training centers will the ministry be building? Why is the budget so large for payments for services to individuals, publicity and other items? Does the ministry really need this money, or will it be used to pay political development promoters for the ruling party?

Does the country really need this sort of ministry, or does the ruling party?

Specific Affairs

The budget of the Ministry of Specific Affairs has been increased 78 percent for operating costs. Of this allocation 60,000 quetzales are for per diems, and 97,600 are for overall appropriations.

Culture and Sports

The Ministry of Culture and Sports will have its budget increased to 30,813,960 quetzales, of which 18,518,960 are for operations and 10,305,558 are for wages and salaries.

Another 3,015,647 quetzales have been allocated to pay for nonpersonal services, including per diem allowances overseas. Also, 3,791,000 quetzales will be earmarked for the construction of four athletic centers, as well as 11,910,342 quetzales to perform functions related to the salvaging, reinforcement, preservation and restoration of national monuments and archaeological sites.

Is it ethical to spend 10.3 million quetzales on wages and salaries? Does the ministry need so much for per diems and entertainment expenses?

Interior

This ministry gets a 7.45 percent increase, even though its capital expenditures budget has not risen. Is this the ministry that is supposed to combat crime and banditry?

Education

The Education Ministry's budget for operations will be boosted by 14.21 percent. It will have 20,447,770 quetzales for capital expenditures, even though Guatemala is faced with a serious problem because of the lack of schooling at all levels.

Other Ministries

The following are the percentage increases in the operating budgets of these ministries: Defense, 13.4; Public Health, 12; Labor, 41.6; Economy, 16.4; Agriculture, 31.5, and the Public Ministry, 15. Communications will receive 445,072,337 quetzales; Finance, 1,494,909,312 quetzales, and the Legislature, 11,088,298 quetzales.

The operating budget includes items for overall appropriations and credits to be applied for all ministries. These appropriations total 63,131,070 quetzales.

The budget of the Communications Ministry earmarks 1,050,000 quetzales so that the AM signal of the TGW [expansion unknown] can be boosted and given a greater range, as well as 474,217 quetzales for a cement-piping factory for the General Directorate of Public Works, even though the signal of the official radio station does not need to be boosted and there are many small industrialists who could produce the pipes.

The budget of the Energy and Mines Ministry allocates 50 million quetzales to the INDE [National Institute of Electrification] for electrification projects. Why give INDE more money when it has boosted its rates appreciably?

The expenditures budget is divided according to the regions of the country, but we ought to tell the people clearly how much goes for operations and how much for capital expenditures.

Moreover, the expenditures program does not mention the 8 percent that the Constitution provides must be granted to the municipalities. Nor does it mention the percentage that must be earmarked for sports, much less how the money will be spent.

All in all, there will be a deficit of 1,069,775,223 quetzales, which the government seeks to cover with foreign loans, the issuance of new bonds and the bonds left over from the previous fiscal year.

The special 4-percent tax on imports is also being retained, even though it boosts the cost of imports and, thus, the cost of living.

Nowhere does the budget mention the surplus compensatory fund from the subsidy that goes to fuels. How does this money enter the government's common revenue fund?

The budget projects revenue from consumption taxes such as the VAT [value added tax], the stamp tax and other similar ones.

By submitting this huge budget the administration is showing that it has no intention of giving in on its own interests and those of its party. Therefore, it is up to the deputies in the official majority and mainly the coalition deputies to safeguard the interests of the Guatemalan people.

If the deputies of the ruling parties fail to discuss the budget publicly and in depth, they will be showing that they continue to think only of themselves, Canale Nanne said in conclusion.

* Revenues, Expenditures

32480011B Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 3 Sep 88 p 2

[Text] The minister of public finance, Dr Ernesto Paiz Andrade, yesterday submitted the draft of the State Revenues and Expenditures Budget for 1989, which totals

3,648,069,767 quetzales, to the second vice president of the Congress of the Republic, Deputy Eduardo Tager Matus, at a ceremony in the library of the Legislative Palace.

In attendance was the vice president of the republic, Roberto Carpio Nicolle, who talked about the economic conditions that the country has faced in recent years.

Also present were officials from the Finance Ministry, the budget director, members of the Board of Directors and other deputies.

General Remarks

"The draft budget," Dr Paiz Andrade explained, "has been conceived as an integral part of the government program for 1989 and, in part, seeks to support national goals and to carry out priority programs and projects to meet the people's demands, especially in the interior of the country."

The budget is marked by a substantive difference, he said, having to do with the process of administrative regionalization and decentralization, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic.

Revenues

Current revenues for 1989, the minister said, total 2,587,294,534 quetzales, while capital revenues total 1,069,775,233.

The following is the breakdown for current revenues: tax revenues, 1,928,944,818 quetzales; quasi-tax revenues, 48,477,437 quetzales; nontax revenues, 202,095,900 quetzales; current transfers, 368,460,186 quetzales, and specific revenues, 30,316,193 quetzales.

The capital revenues are: foreign loans, 404,588,283 quetzales; new bonds, 553,186,950 quetzales, and bond balances from previous fiscal year, 112 million quetzales.

Expenditures by Region

The appropriation for the metropolitan region is 1,827,868,830 quetzales; the northern region, 98,552,608 quetzales; the northeastern region, 150,861,077 quetzales, the southeastern region, 133,658,217 quetzales; the central region, 177,801,096; the southwestern region, 291,534,664 quetzales; the northwestern region, 143,326,882 quetzales; the Peten region, 59,266,393 quetzales, and the public debt, 765,200,000 quetzales.

The planned appropriations for debt payments are, by their nature, not broken down by region, he said.

Sectors

The following is the breakdown by sectors: public debt, 765,200,000 quetzales; education, science and culture, 545,996,377 quetzales; health care and social welfare, 397,614,622; defense and national security, 385,327,836; transportation, 366,505,481; finance, 326,035,121; agriculture, 242,721,862; labor and social security, 217,433,076; housing and urban development, 84,411,776; energy, 52,766,622; communications, 28,788,366; industry and commerce, 9,621,586; mining and hydrocarbons, 3,703,016, and tourism, 1,094,426.

Expenditures Budget

The expenditures budget, broken down into its three main components, looks like this: operating expenditures, 1,848,413,075 quetzales; capital expenditures, 1,034,456,692 quetzales, and expenditures for the public debt, 765,200,000 quetzales.

More Capital Spending

The finance minister pointed out that there would be an increase in government capital expenditures from 711.3 million quetzales in 1988 to 1,034,500,000 quetzales next year; this accounts for 28.36 percent of the entire budget, which totals 3.6481 billion quetzales.

* Debt To Grow

32480011C Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 6 Sep 88 p 3

[Text] The country's domestic and foreign debt will total 12,154,641,947 quetzales next year under the draft revenues and expenditures budget that the administration has sent the Congress of the Republic, Deputy Hector Luna Troccoli (UCN [National Centrist Party]) stated yesterday.

Some 42.3 percent of the 1989 budget, he added, which comes to 1,543,986,950 quetzales, will be financed through new foreign debt. "This brings the total to the amount mentioned at the outset, according to the data in my possession," he said.

The total amount of the domestic and foreign public debt, he explained, does not include interest, commitment fees or treasury bill issuances, and thus the amount could be much higher.

The budget bill, he indicates, promotes bond issuances (national debt) in the amount of 553,186,950 quetzales.

Moreover, treasury bills will be issued to cover seasonal shortfalls up to the amount of 515,600,000 quetzales, plus $176 million, which at an exchange rate of 2.7 quetzales to $1, is equivalent to 475,200,000, the total thus coming to 1,543,986,950 quetzales, which is 42.3 percent of the new budget.

Public Debt

As far as the public debt is concerned, as the Finance Ministry reported through the External Financing Department, the deputy added, the foreign debt is estimated to hit $2,740,800,000 by 31 December of this year.

This is equivalent to 7,400,160,000 quetzales. Adding to it next year's debt of 475,200,000 quetzales yields a total of 7,875,360,000 quetzales.

National Debt

As for the national debt (treasury bonds), he indicates elsewhere, under this year's budget by 31 December 1988 there will be 3,726,094,997 quetzales in treasury bills in circulation. If we add next year's amount to this, the total comes to 4,279,281,947 quetzales.

Adding together the national and foreign debt, he said, yields the sum total of more than 12 million quetzales, not including interest or treasury bills (because they are short term). "In this regard, it baffles me when administration officials say that our borrowing capacity is favorable."

"They do not say, however," he added in conclusion, "what our borrowing capacity will be like when we have to make heavy outlays in the near future to pay what we now owe."

* Budget Total Defended

32480011D Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Sep 88 p 2

[Text] "Although the 1989 budget comes to 10 million quetzales a day, as it totals more than 3.6 billion quetzales for the year, we can say that it has increased nominally but not in real terms," said Deputy Jose Lobo Dubon, the chairman of the Public Finance Committee of the Congress of the Republic.

"There has been a change," he added, "in the structure of the budget as it has been administered since 1964. We now have a regionalized budget, which in the words of the Finance Ministry seeks to clearly spell out all programs, subprograms and specific projects, with each quantified, and determines the accounts and objectives in this regard."

"I am saying that the budget has not grown in real terms, because its growth is tied to the exchange rate standardization, to the new adjustment in the exchange rate to 2.7 quetzales.

"Moreover, there are other important elements in the budget increase, such as wage policy in 1989, the benefits for pensioners and the constitutional percentages, which boost the budget as they rise.

"The document also takes into account the increase in the subsidy for urban transport and current transfers to the decentralized agencies, mainly the INDE [National Institute of Electrification], so that it can pay its debt and not have to boost rates."

Finance Minister

"The finance minister," he went on to say, "will come before Congress next Friday at 1000 hours to give us a wide-ranging explanation of the budget. The technical director of the budget, Manuel Maza Castellanos, will also be there.

"Actually," Deputy Lobo Dubon reiterated, "the budget by and large is the same as last year's. It is higher, as I said, because of the exchange rate standardization, higher salaries in accordance with wage policy, and aid to decentralized agencies so that they meet their obligations.

"I think that the decentralized enterprises could be privatized. Now, I feel that the public utility enterprises should not be privatized; perhaps they could have joint capital, but I don't feel that it would be wise for them to be totally private.

"I say this because it would be like giving a single segment of the population control over a service that is for all Guatemalans. Because if just one agency is in charge of providing a service to the entire community, it would be liable to be turned into a political tool if it were totally private.

"As of next week we are going to invite the cabinet ministers to come and explain their budget to us. We don't want to make a timetable of visits, just analyze and study the explanations that each minister gives us.

"We are not going to make a rigid timetable; we are just going to carefully analyze each budget. We can do this in October. Some ministries have long and complicated budgets, so depending on the studies that we do we will determine how we are going to receive the ministers."

Nicaragua

Ortega: No Ban on U.S. Disaster Aid

PA1711033188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0206 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Managua, 16 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega maintained today that the U.S. Government has so far offered no aid for the victims of Hurricane Joan, and denied receiving any official messages from Washington on this issue.

"It is not true that my government has banned U.S. aid for victims of Hurricane Joan. We have received no official messages offering such aid," Ortega said.

Ortega made this statement tonight to 15 nongovernment representatives from Protestant churches visiting the country from the United States, Canada, and Western Europe. The representatives are attending the Evangelic Committee for Development Aid meeting, in support of the Nicaraguan Committee for Development Aid.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Managua told ACAN-EFE that President Ronald Reagan himself rejected the proposed aid for the Nicaraguan victims of Hurricane "Joan" when he learned about Daniel Ortega's statement that "such aid would be stained with blood."

"I want to clarify that the National Assembly decision to ban the entry into Nicaragua of aid from the U.S. Congress to people or institutions refers only to the 'package' approved for the 'contras,'" Ortega said.

"It would be different if, instead of giving that aid to the 'contras' to come and kill children, they gave it to build houses and to give food to the hurricane victims," Ortega added.

The representatives of the religious organizations have conducted "quick and intensive" visits to the Caribbean southern coast and the center of Managua, where the hurricane also caused much damage, to study the need for aid for the hurricane victims.

According to Ortega, there is currently in the United States "a strong campaign" in the media to try to portray the Managua government as an "inhumane and extremist [government] that bans aid for hurricane victims."

Editorial Criticizes Government Aid 'Request'

PA1611204088 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Nov 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Armed Beggars"]

[Text] A surprising document, published on today's front page, has been distributed to the diplomatic corps in Nicaragua. The document answers the question we asked in our editorial yesterday. Our editorial attempted to get this country's leaders to ask themselves: Why is there no solidarity with Nicaragua?

The question was really a reaction to statements made by two officials of this regime: Alejandro Martinez Cuenca [planning and budget minister] and Reynaldo Tefel Velez [Social Security and Welfare Institute director]. These officials said in a very undiplomatic manner this week that international aid "was a disaster" and that "the international community did not show joint responsibility toward Nicaragua."

The latter, a statement by Martinez Cuenca, is incomprehensible. Obviously, the international community does not have a "joint responsibility" for providing aid, because it did not have a "joint responsibility" for creating the hurricane.

In reality, any impartial observer can see that the international community's aid is indeed "miserly" when compared to the shameful "Basic List To Handle the Emergency's First Phase" issued by the Foreign Ministry. The 10-page document is subtitled "Request" and has been distributed to the embassies in Managua. It tells them what the Sandinist government expects to receive from their countries.

In other words, the government did not wait for the international community to offer its aid spontaneously as it has always done in the past after similar disasters. Such examples are the aid given to Nicaragua after the 1972 Managua earthquake and the aid given to Jamaica after Hurricane Gilbert.

No. The Sandinists, used to military practices and methods, have told the countries with which they have diplomatic relations what sort of aid they want to receive and ordered these countries to offer it. What is more surprising and even suspicious is that the list was distributed a few hours after the hurricane had passed on Monday, 22 October. At that moment the damage was unknown, as was the amount of aid required.

As we recall, the complete losses and the amount of urgently required aid were not known until President Ortega visited the area hit by the hurricane several days later. The "request" that was distributed, however, anticipated that there would be a need for "beds and other medical equipment and supplies for Puerto Cabezas." These articles are really not part of the basic list of items needed by the victims.

We are already used to the government's way of handling diplomatic relations, which is a result of its disastrous foreign policy. Our people, however, will never become accustomed to being shamefully exhibited as impoverished beggars.

Our people can come up with a better title for the D'Escoto Foreign Ministry's "request" or "military order": "Armed Beggars."

Criticisms Labeled 'Stupid'

PA1711024688 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Nov 88 pp 1, 5

[Editorial: "In the Face of a Hate-Mongering Campaign Against Those Suffering"]

[Text] In response to the U.S. Government's official order to block aid to Nicaragua, LA PRENSA yesterday accused the government of lying to the world about the magnitude of the catastrophe and the vital needs of rural and urban areas ravaged by the hurricane.

On the very day the hurricane struck the country, White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater began a campaign against the aid, attempting to plant the seeds of doubt on the final destination and the need for that aid. Almost

simultaneously, LA PRENSA and the right wing began their campaign of innuendoes and provocations so as to politicize the hurricane and prevent the flow of international aid.

The manifestations of opportunism, slander, and voraciousness greatly surpass the acts of Anastacio Somoza himself; since the earthquake, the country had not seen such attempts to turn the nation's tragedy into a shameful and unheard of "political deal" by denying the people vitally needed aid. By politicizing the hurricane and the relief aid, the right wing and LA PRENSA have shown their political objectives, along with the lucrative interests of the "Political Parties Committee." To this we must now add the monstrous goal of preventing medicines from reaching the sick, bandages from reaching the injured, food from reaching the hungry, and shelter from being built for the homeless.

In their obsession and baseness, they have gone so far as to attempt to hide their slander behind the seriousness, honor, and prestige of the entire diplomatic corps accredited to our country, when it is very clear that if there is any embassy involved in sponsoring this campaign, it can only be the U.S. Embassy.

The manipulation of the government's preliminary reports, more than being dirty, is stupid, because in spite of what LA PRENSA regards as an "exaggeration," the assessments fall short of reality. The magnitude of the losses is far greater than originally imagined and estimated, and, in truth, the government not only needs but is obligated to report those losses to the world. It is the Nicaraguan people who call for aid.

Over 2,000 Tons of Aid Received, More Needed

PA1111150688 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Summary] According to Nicaragua's National Emergency Committee, over 2,000 tons of donations have been received from the international community for those left homeless by Hurricane Joan. The committee has reported that it has distributed 1,332 tons of the aid to the areas most affected by the hurricane.

Planning and Budget Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, who is also National Emergency Committee coordinator, said that the Red Cross and the ECLA independently distributed the remainder of the aid. He added that much more aid would be needed to help Nicaragua recover from the disaster.

Wheelock's Remarks on Strikes Criticized

PA1611184588 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Nov 88 p 2

[Editorial: "A Monstrous Sentence"]

[Text] Addressing San Antonio sugar mill employees, Agriculture Minister Jaime Wheelock offered to cut off the hands of those who plan to raise the banner of a strike to protest the low wages and the bad food that, according to the workers, they receive at the sugar mill. Although nothing new for the Sandinists, the cruelty inherent in such a statement cannot go unnoticed, leading us to comment on two facts hidden behind such barbarity.

First, it makes official the enslaving and dehumanizing system the FSLN has tried to impose in Nicaragua, a system characterized by the absence of every human freedom.

"It is not a threat; it is a warning," the "revolutionary" leader said. With his statement, he limits the Nicaraguan workers' freedom to such an extreme as that suffered by the Latin American workers during colonial times, before the establishment of social laws.

The FSLN's policy toward workers has been the implementation of "orders" that deprive workers of all their rights: in this case, the right to strike as established in the Sandinist constitution; "guidelines" aimed at removing every opportunity and progress to the working class; and "measures" that eliminate all incentives for workers to work better and earn more. The workers have now been "warned" they will lose even their limbs if they exercise one of the most sacred human rights.

This same "barbarous and uncivilized" situation has been a decisive factor in the economic failure of the FSLN's historical project. This is the other fact Wheelock confessed in his speech to San Antonio sugar mill employees.

Wheelock, unable to conceal his lack of control and desperation because he cannot meet the economic challenges imposed on him—challenges in which the San Antonio mill is decisive—once again unmasked President Ortega's government by admitting they do not govern or administer here but simply use armed power and issue orders.

We see proof of this every day with the increase of administrative disorder, institutional chaos, and poverty—and the decrease of ethics and morals, with an accelerated movement toward economic, social, and political collapse.

It is not for nothing that it has been said governments are like fish: They rot first from the head.

Wheelock Responds

PA1611204588 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Nov 88 p 1

[Statement by Jaime Wheelock Roman, agricultural development and agrarian reform minister, to the newspaper LA PRENSA: "Precision by One of the 'Hand-Choppers'"; date not given]

[Text] 1. In our contemporary history, the Yankee Marines and their successive allies—the Diaz's and Chamorro's, the Somoza's, and now Bermudez and company—are the ones who have not only cut off the arms but also the heads of Nicaraguan workers and peasants.

2. In the past 9 years, the revolution has threatened the peasants by giving 100,000 landless families their land deeds. They have also been given tractors, irrigation equipment, working tools...and rifles to defend their revolution and their fatherland.

3. By expropriating the San Antonio sugar mill, the revolution has halted the collapse of this work center and prevented thousands of working heads of families' from losing their jobs.

4. The criminal actions perpetuated by the Reagan administration's internal allies are as criminal as the U.S. aggression against our people. The revolution and our people have the sacred obligation to defend Nicaragua from its foreign aggressor and from its internal allies. Since Sandino's times, we have learned that a country's sovereignty is not to be debated; it is to be defended with weapons in our hands.

Jaime Wheelock Roman

Newsman Reportedly Attacked by 'Opposition'

PA1511024288 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Managua, 14 November, DPA—Abel Calero, a popular and criticized Nicaraguan television reporter, reports that he was attacked by three unidentified individuals on a city bus in Managua today.

Calero, who covers Nicaraguan politics, said those responsible for the attack belong to opposition political groups, which have carried out violent actions against journalists who support the Sandinist revolution.

Calero noted that 2 days ago Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo said some people had asked him the names of journalists who had attacked the cardinal. The cardinal gave no answer. Calero also said Ramiro Gurdian, vice president of the Democratic Coordinating Board, has threatened to attack Sandinist journalists.

Party Leader Reveals State Security Pressure

PA1011202988 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] Felix Pedro Videa Moreno, president of the Social Christian Party in the town of Somoto, today revealed that State Security officials have pressured him to collaborate as an informer, providing information about the activities of his political group.

The political leader filed his charges with Lino Hernandez Triguero, executive secretary of the Permanent Human Rights Commission in Managua. [passage omitted]

Indian Rebel Leaders Accept Government Amnesty

PA1011174588 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 9 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Five military commanders of the warring YATAMA [Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians and Creole Groups Organization], who have put down their arms and accepted a peace and development plan of the revolutionary government, were introduced this morning to local and foreign newsmen at the EPS Public Relations Office [in Managua].

The former rebel leaders are: Domingo Peralta, Preciliano Abraham, Harry Santiago Potosne, and Franklin Avano [four names as heard]. They had led a rebel force of 250 men. Now they have asked the government for arms to defend themselves from possible attacks by their former allies.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Ernesto Sosa, commander of the 7th Military Region, has stated that the warring forces in the North Atlantic area have been reduced significantly and that they will be completely eliminated in the next few days. The most important rebel force in that region, Col Sosa stated, is the one headed by Norman Camacho Garcia, alias Pitufo. [passage omitted]

Contra 'Detachment Leader' Surrenders

PA1111001888 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2317 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Report by Julio Aragon from Juigalpa, Region 5]

[Text] A counterrevolutionary detachment leader known in the contra ranks as Estrella decided to take advantage of the Amnesty Law and turned himself over to the Nicaraguan Red Cross in Nueva Guinea.

Tired of committing crimes and robberies in Nueva Guinea, detachment leader Luis Manuel Perez Espinoza, known in contra ranks as Estrella, took advantage of the Amnesty Law.

The contra leader said he was kidnapped 4 years ago, armed, and worked to obtain more aid for his companions with his boss, who is known as Rene and is currently in San Jose, Costa Rica.

During the time he was armed by the counterrevolution, Estrella fought against EPS troops for 6 months in Yolaina and (El Verdui), among other mountainous areas of Nueva Guinea.

Estrella claims he turned himself over to the Nicaraguan Red Cross because this is the only means available to him to achieve freedom and preserve his life. Two other individuals, 14-year-old Henry Diaz, who spent 2 years with the counterrevolution and was known as Aguila, and Frank Vidal Vasquez Perez, who was also known as Alfredo in the contra ranks, also took advantage of the Amnesty Law together with this counterrevolutionary leader.

The latter was met by the Nicaraguan Red Cross near Yolaina neighborhood. He traveled with us in the Red Cross pickup truck yesterday, but this morning he was transferred to Somoto, the hometown of counterrevolutionary leader Estrella, who headed a contra detachment in the La Guinea area.

5 Contras Captured in Chontales Department

PA1411122688 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Interior Ministry troops have captured a group of mercenaries who ambushed the vehicle of farmer Avelino Martinez on 3 November in Region 3. Yesterday, Alonso Gonzalez, alias (Cinco Leguas), the group's leader; Oscar Gonzalez, alias (Guas); Manuel Gonzalez, alias El Veloz; Mario Gonzalez; and Javier Diez, alias (Lince), were presented to the local and international media. The perpetrators of the attack belonged to the so-called Jorge Salazar II Regional Command. They had a network of 13 armed couriers, and their zone of operations covered the (Chabarria) and (San Francisco del Coyol) areas, in the northern area of Juigalpa, Chontales Department. Captain Juan Baez reported this.

New Communications System Experiences Trouble

PA1011214788 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Nov 88 p 4

[Text] Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services [TELCOR] officials today reported that the new international communications system inaugurated on 6 November could run into trouble within the next 2 weeks because of the equipment's breaking-in period and the personnel's adaptation to the system.

The officials said the new digital system, installed at Villa Fontana, malfunctioned to some extent during the first 36 hours of operation. The official said, however, that this is normal for the reasons mentioned.

TELCOR Minister Leopoldo Rivas admitted that specialists for the French-made M-T and Syscope-2 systems will have to be sought after and hired.

Problems in communications with Leon and Matagalpa have also been experienced, but this is a result of the same adjustment period, the experts pointed out. International communications users complained of problems with the number 116 line this morning. According to the new system, this number is used to establish communications with the United States and the rest of the world.

TELCOR said: "Users apparently have not become familiar with the procedure to use this number."

The number 114 line is the one that has caused the least problems so far, because this is being used only for calls to Central America, Mexico, and Panama, which are not too numerous.

Panama

Three 'High-Ranking' FDP Officers Retire

PA1411215288 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2114 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] Panama City, 13 Nov [date as received] (DPA)—According to a communique issued by the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Public Relations Office, after a meeting between FDP Commander in Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega and his general staff, two FDP colonels and one lieutenant colonel retired today.

The colonels who retired are Rogelio Alba, Panamanian representative to the combined board for the defense of the Panama Canal, FDP Inspector General Eros Ramiro Cal, and Lieutenant Colonel Eugenio Corro.

In addition, Lieutenant Colonel Alfredo Remon was appointed military attache to the Panamanian Embassy in Colombia.

This is the second round of retirements of high-ranking FDP officers since last March's failed military coup against Gen Noriega.

Further on 'Retirement'

PA1511001588 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2332 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Text] The Information and Public Relations Directorate of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] has announced that in a meeting held this morning between the commander in chief and the chiefs of staff, an agreement was reached for the retirement of Colonels Rogelio Alba and Eros Ramiro Cal and Lieutenant Colonel Eugenio Corro.

This action is part of the FDP's internal development plan. At the same meeting, Lieutenant Colonel Alfredo Remon was appointed military attache to Colombia, a post he formerly held as a major.

Noriega Speaks at Ceremony

PA1611143788 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0337 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP), at retirement ceremony for FDP officers at Tinajitas Garrison in San Miguelito District on 15 November—recorded]

[Text] We are here at a very simple military ceremony. We wanted it to be simple so it could be ours, with our men and our guests. We do not want to bid farewell but to honor three soldiers. We wanted the ceremony to be in Tinajitas because of their tradition, because this is where they began their careers as officers. We also wanted it to be at this level and in front of these troops so a lesson can be learned from this ceremony. Although comparisons are detestable, we also wanted to make a comparison.

There are two representatives of retired officers, Colonel Fisher and Colonel Arauz, who retired with a military ceremony and with the emotion of having done their duty. Today, the three officers we are honoring will take and maintain in their hearts the emotion of seeing that troops, a contingent of subordinates and comrades-in-arms, honored them. How satisfying and pleasing it is, as Colonel Alba said, to reach that goal in the presence of those who saw us begin our careers, even if they are not the same faces but the same uniforms and weapons. How satisfying and pleasing it is to see at this final goal of a military career the same uniforms we helped train when we began our careers. That is pleasing. Pity those, woe to those, who did not receive such a ceremony and who left crying, hurting the mother who conceived them, the womb that is this FDP today, was the National Guard yesterday, and the National Police prior to that.

Because of this, regardless of what can be said to honor Comrades Corro, Cal, and Alba, this is the best testimony of admiration and the best message of solidarity.

The three men you are honoring today were three active soldiers who contributed in a real and effective way to life with the troops, to suffering with them, to developing with them, and to advancing and retreating with them.

That is the case of Col Alba, with whom we were in difficult moments, from mountain to mountain, from Piedra Candela to Quijada del Diablo, where he showed that the troops advanced because the commander advanced. At those times, he was the man who was there and who came from a public order company that had been trained during a time that had not been the best in the development of these armed forces, these defense forces, to which you belong today with great advantages. Those were the times of great sacrifices.

But that public order company must include Eros Ramiro Cal and Eugenio Corro, who responded under difficult times of public order disruptions. Combat battalions were then starting to be formed, which Major Hurtado had previously created, breaking previous patterns and managing to install them when the need began to be felt for a National Guard to evolve and switch generations into another more evolved armed institution, of which these three officers were part.

Eugenio Corro, with whom I was a comrade and subordinate in Military Zone No 5, left his characteristic mark of leadership, unique troop training, and force of leadership, and left his mark in the troops' morale, leaving behind many very special and original stories, which we, the fellow troops, used to talk about jokingly or in jest. But it was in admiration of a man who when they would try to force us to drink, would reply: I do not drink. He would say: Major, I do not drink, so I am not having any. This is a true characteristic that describes this man's personal honesty and describes the man who has the traits of loyalty, a man who tomorrow may tell you: I do not betray.

We find in Eros Ramiro Cal an officer who displayed other characteristics as a representative of our country's interior, as a representative from Las Tablas. He gave our forces the training, evolution, and personal touch of the melting pot, and the commanders appreciated the quality of the Los Santos people when forming their squads.

He carried out an international mission as one of our first military attaches, in a sister nation at a difficult time. Because of his distinguished manners, tactfulness, and intelligence, he successfully performed his mission and provided us, as an armed force, with a victory.

On returning, we saw in Corro the typical soldier who accomplishes missions, who is ready to make sacrifices, and who gave his personal touch to whatever mission he tackled. A while ago, I referred to this personal touch aspect with an example.

He was a capable and good soldier when he was in the Middle East. He was a capable and good instructor in Costa Rica, where training was given to 400 police and intelligence services units. This man was in charge of protecting and providing security for arms depots in those days when people—people who are not here with us and who had to use the back door to leave—tried to seize those depots. There again he performed like the honest soldier who had demonstrated his character when as a second lieutenant and as a lieutenant he trained his men.

I am going to refer to Alba again, saying that the records of the security commission having to do with relations with the United States have registered forever the patriotic, nationalist, and Panamanian position stated by Alba in his arguments before that commission. That is why I wanted this ceremony in his honor to be a family affair also. These records have historic value and represent a public demonstration that this soldier—who through the Venezuelan military mission was trained by the Venezuelan cooperation forces in the days of the National Guard—was righteous, honest, and capable enough to deal with the generals, colonels, and other representatives of the Southern Command, and to tell them: We are taking no step backwards, we are against whatever is dishonorable and goes against our fatherland.

Soldiers of the 1st Combat and Fire Support Company of Tinajita: You and the flag escort officers can see there is a generational relay and that those following us will eventually occupy the posts we have now.

Officers who are here today, area representatives, unit commanders: You are witnessing this ceremony; you can testify to what I am saying. This is the kind of event that lasts forever and that serves as an example.

Whenever Alba remembers that bloody 9 January day in Pie de la Candela, when Santos Baules and other colleagues died, he will remember our troops and will be marking a road for himself. New officers who are finding

open roads and open trails need to realize that before them there were men who returned from the mountains after experiencing difficult times there but not before opening new trails.

They opened the path, but it continues to be opened by the new officers who are moving upward and are among the four-fifths of our men that will reach the year 2000. Let them know we have had true soldiers. Let them know they were men who opened the path, who struggled, and who offered their lives for the cause. Let them know these men really placed their lives in danger. The roof constructed by the soldiers of the past, represented here by Arauz and Fischer, continued to be built by other soldiers, represented here by Alba, Corro, and Cal. It is the roof that shelters and protects the second lieutenants and lieutenants that graduate from military academies. The roof was made through the effort of soldiers and honorable officers that have left the corps with their heads held high because they reached the goal in their military career. Such is the case of Corro, Cal, and Alba. [applause]

Noriega Discusses 'Strategy for the Future'

PA1711034088 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0158 GMT 17 Nov 88

[News conference by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, with unidentified reporters at a ceremony to inaugurate an electrification project and a road in San Miguelito District, Panama Province on 16 November—recorded]

[Text] [Noriega] Comrades of San Miguelito, the Panama Defense Forces, with their civic action program, did only what you have done. They did not sit down and cry in the face of aggression. They decided to continue onward, and that is why we have these concrete results. Therefore, whether there be rain, thunder, or lightning, the Defense Forces and the people of San Miguelito are moving forward.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Noriega] The elections are in the hands of the Electoral Tribunal, and we will be the supporters, the guarantors, of order.

[Reporter] General, why haven't you cared to comment on the selection of George Bush as U.S. President?

[Noriega] Simply because Panama's problem is hunger and aggression, not the assumption of power by Bush or Dukakis. That does not interest us. We are interested in San Miguelito, its men, its misery, not the problems of the United States.

[Reporter] How about a message for the Colombian people?

[Noriega] The Colombian people are our brothers. We have common borders. We are more concerned about what happens in Colombia than in any other area.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

[Reporter] Gen Noriega, I was in Guatemala, and they love you very much, General. I saw a very interesting article that I am going to send to you. In addition, the Air Force colonels were very kind to us and they sent you many greetings. They are looking at your example. That is very important. They say you are an example for all the military officers of America, for Guatemalan officers.

[Noriega] I am very flattered by your comments. Honestly, it is not Manuel Antonio Noriega, the man; it is a Panamanian, a graduate of the National Institute, a man from the Panamanian slums who is in the struggle.

[Reporter] Very well, for this great network, Gen Noriega, we will pass the microphone around to see who wants to speak. Perhaps our colleague, Lino Macias.

[Macias] Well, it seems the interview is continuing. We will try to get close. We are here in front of the guards, where the general is making statements to the international press.

[Noriega, in progress]...to cry in the face of aggression, but got down to work to open the roads that are here now, and to seek water, and to strengthen themselves and eat whatever was available. Thus, our people are the winners, and our people are the ones to whom all us leaders have a moral and civic commitment.

[Reporter] What is the Panamanian Government's strategy for the future?

[Noriega] We have divided the strategy for the future into phases. First is the political phase, which consists of the 1989 elections in accordance with the Constitution. Second, with the new government, there will be new plans adapted to our situation, adapted to the experience gained with the aggression. Therefore, we cannot continue to speak of the aggression, or to cry in the face of the aggression. We have to seek methods to overcome that aggression for the benefit of the people. We have to seek our own methods. Exemplary people of the entire world have experienced the same thing. There was Spain after the Second World War, and today Spain is a trade center [emporio]. Thus, we have to see ourselves in those people, in China. We have to see ourselves in Italy, and in the many people of Europe, where the people have a quality of struggle and a patriotic awareness of what is valuable as people and as men. That is what the new government must include in its plan: A plan for recovery based on the real nature of man and man's dignity.

PDC's Cochez on 'Subhuman' Prison Conditions

PA1111232188 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Statement by Guillermo Cochez, Christian Democratic Party (PDC) legislator; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Yesterday we denounced the subhuman conditions in which the Modelo Jail prisoners are kept, and we directly blame the man in charge of the jail, Major Jorge

Correa. We believe the human rights provisions of our legislation and Constitution and international regulations on treatment of political prisoners should be complied with in all Panamanian prisons. This should be the case particularly with political prisoners, who deserve preferential treatment because they are not common criminals.

Visits are restricted to 10 minutes every 2 days. During that period, the persons have to eat and talk with their relatives; their conversations are recorded; there is no privacy. The prisoners have not been allowed to see their lawyers; they have no right to a legal defense. In addition, there are the internal conditions of the prison, such as prisoners being kept incommunicado and in truly deplorable sanitary and health conditions. Our prisons and the regime under which we are living leaves much to be desired. We have reported these conditions, hoping this situation will be corrected.

We have also requested that the Legislative Assembly appoint a commission to visit the prisons, but this has been denied. The Legislative Assembly president has been entrusted with requesting the Government, Justice, and Constitutional Affairs Commission members to visit Modelo Jail and present a report as soon as possible to the Legislative Assembly. This report should be made public. We hope this will improve the conditions of all prisoners, both common and political prisoners.

Regime Accused of Plans To Postpone Elections

PA1011171588 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 9 Nov 88 p 10

[Text] Guillermo Cochez, vice president of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), has said the government is seeking international support for "postponing" the 1989 elections and extending by 2 years the presidential term of Manuel Solis Palma.

"In the last 2 weeks, government representatives have traveled to Venezuela to determine if there is some support for postponing the Panamanian elections and maintaining Solis Palma in power 2 more years," the opposition politician said.

Cochez added that Dr Renato Pereira, the former president of the Broad Popular Front (FRAMPO), has been entrusted with talking to the leaders of the Democratic Action Party and its presidential candidate, Carlos Andres Perez.

According to the PDC vice president, "these outrageous ideas" show that the current regime is not interested in holding honest elections for democratizing the country.

Party Leader on Required Electoral Conditions

PA1011194988 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Nov 88

[Statement by Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement President Alfredo Ramirez; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] The Panamanian electorate did not lend itself to the propaganda show held at Atlapa Convention Center yesterday. The Panamanian opposition has no trust in the present regime or in the electoral institutions. We do not believe they are able to provide pure and honest elections for the country. We consider the event held in Atlapa yesterday to have been organized only to distract the Panamanian people's attention from their serious overwhelming problems.

When the regime shows that people can believe in it, and when the regime shows it is truly interested in the country's democratization, the Panamanian opposition will adopt the most suitable stance. We have continuously repeated that there is a huge political conflict in the country that will not be resolved until the Defense Forces—which actually wield power in this country and which have the capacity to make decisions—reach the necessary agreements with the true Panamanian opposition and the Civic Crusade. The day such an agreement is reached, people will see the elections as an option that can help resolve the difficult situation we are enduring. As long as there is no prior understanding, the elections will not solve the country's problems.

Cuna Congress Condemns 'Aggressive' U.S. Plans

PA1011231288 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 10 Nov 88 p 15

["Text" of Resolution No 1 issued by the Cuna (Indian) General Congress on 27 October in Tubuala community, San Blas Islands]

[Text] RESOLUTION NO 1

The Cuna General Congress, in its regular sessions held 24-27 October 1988 in the community of Tubuala, exercising its powers conferred by Law 16 and the fundamental charter, issued the following resolution:

WHEREAS:

1. The Cuna General Congress has asked the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] to refrain from conducting military exercises in Cuna territory. [as published]

2. However, U.S. Air Force fighter bombers and helicopter gunships have been overflying the area at very low altitudes, violating the national airspace in Cuna Yala.

3. Those actions carried out by the U.S. Army stationed in the area adjacent to the Panama Canal are part of the destabilization, psychological war, and imperialist attacks unleashed against our country.

4. The aggressive actions conducted by the U.S. Army in coordination with the government of some country [as published] are aimed at preventing compliance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties, which will end with our national decolonization on 31 December 1999.

5. That historical event will represent the fulfillment of the Panamanian people's desire to own their canal and guarantee their territorial integrity, total sovereignty, national liberation, peace, and social progress.

RESOLVES:

Article 1. To strongly condemn violations of the national airspace in Cuna Yala by the U.S. Army.

Article 2. To also condemn the destabilizing and aggressive plans against our country unleashed by the U.S. Government and Army.

Article 3. To firmly support the nationalist and dignified actions conducted at this historical moment for the nation by FDP Commander in Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega and President Manuel Solis Palma.

Article 4. To express our faith, confidence, certainty, and hopes that together with the Panamanian people, we shall fulfill our goal of completing our national decolonization.

Article 5. To express our historical determination to struggle along with the best Panamanians for Panama's ownership of the canal, territorial integrity, full sovereignty, national liberation, peace, and permanent social progress. Issued in the community of Tubuala on 27 October 1988.
[Signed] Kawigdi Inaparquiquiler, general Cuna chief
Leonidas Valdez, general Cuna chief
Enrique Guerrero, general Cuna chief
Demetrio Porras, intendant of the Cuna Yala Indian Reserve
Ofilio Guerrero, secretary general of the Cuna Congress.

Health Ministry Announces AIDS Figures

PA1111033788 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Summary] According to a recent report by Dr Agustin Luna, coordinator of the Health Ministry's nationwide program against AIDS in Panama, 46 people have died as a result of the disease. The report indicates that the number of AIDS cases has increased to 78, adding that those affected mostly belong to high-risk groups, such as homosexuals and drug addicts.

Argentina

UN Envoy Denies Date Set for UK Talks

PY1611182588 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] We are now in contact with the United States, where the United Nations has its headquarters. We want to recall that during the past few hours the British Foreign Ministry stated that its ambassador to the United Nations, Crispin Tickell, would allegedly meet today with Dante Caputo, current UNGA [United Nations General Assembly] chairman and Argentine foreign minister, to begin the first direct talks between the two nations since the war over the Malvinas.

Radio Nacional wants to confirm this information through a direct contact with our diplomatic representatives on the spot. For this reason we are now, at 1307, in contact with Argentine Ambassador Guillermo McGough, one of the men closest to Minister Dante Caputo, who currently presides over the UNGA. We would like you to explain this report to us, McGough. Good afternoon.

[McGough] Good afternoon, Mr Lopez. I thank you for this phone call. Regarding the report you have just made, I would like to state that the reports disseminated by some international press agencies are not accurate. There never has been any date set for the meeting referred to in the report. And it is quite likely that the meeting that Caputo will hold in his capacity as chairman of the UNGA will be held in the coming weeks. I want to repeat that there has never been any date set for the mentioned meeting.

[Reporter] McGough, can this be interpreted as a maneuver by the UK Foreign Ministry to influence the UNGA session that will discusss the subject on Friday 18 November?

[McGough] No. The subject will be discussed tomorrow. This subject is usually brought up in the morning session and, depending on the list of speakers, it is quite likely that the discussions will end tomorrow evening. It is hard to say when there will be a vote on the draft resolution because so far there are some 16 speakers and it is hard to say how long each of them will speak, or whether more speakers will be added to the list. That is still not certain; therefore, I repeat, the subject will be discussed tomorrow and it is almost certain that the discussion will end by the evening of 17 November.

[Reporter] What about the real intention of the UK Foreign Ministry regarding this report?

[McGough] I would rather not make any comment. According to what we can make out, this is just a report disseminated by international press agencies which, I repeat, is not accurate.

[Reporter] This flatly denies the rumors on the aforementioned meeting. Now that we mention the word meeting, you have been in the United States for some days now but you have surely heard that during the past few hours some Argentine politicians and even some journalists have mentioned the possibility that Caputo may have already held a meeting of this sort. Can we also deny these reports?

[McGough] I am not going to make any comments on that issue Mr Lopez. The essence of the diplomatic negotiations prevents me from making any further comment on the issue.

[Reporter] Very well. Just before ending we would like to ask you if Minister Caputo is presiding over the UNGA.

[McGough] That is right, he is now presiding over the UNGA.

[Reporter] So who will defend the Argentine rights over the archipelagos of the South Atlantic in tomorrow's session?

[McGough] Vice Foreign Minister Susana Ruiz Cerutti will head the Argentine delegation when the subject of the Malvinas Islands is discussed.

[Reporter] Is it right that a motion which will be upheld by several countries, proposing a just and peaceful solution to the conflict over the sovereignty, will be made?

[McGough] Yes, that is right.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Ambassador McGough, for this information from the United States for the entire Argentine Republic through Radio Nacional. It was very kind.

[McGough] Not at all and goodbye, Mr Lopez.

Denial by Caputo

PY1711003588 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Dante Mario Caputo has flatly denied news reports published by the media today stating that his meeting with the British ambassador to the United Nations, Sir Crispin Tickell, is imminent. The reports stated that the meeting was going to be held today.

At the UNGA today Caputo said that no specific date for the meeting has ever been established, although the meeting may be held any time in the next few weeks.

Political observers believe that the meeting will surely be held after the Malvinas sovereignty issue is discussed at the UNGA tomorrow.

Brazil will present a resolution calling for a negotiated solution to the Malvinas crisis. Latin American representatives expect the resolution to be almost unanimously approved.

Brazil's resolution will be supported by Colombia, Ghana, India, Mexico, Peru, and Yugoslavia, which will represent the support of countries from five continents.

Caputo said the number of votes supporting the resolution will be similar to those obtained in the last 2 years, and said that the voting will be held during a period in which calls for dialogue and talks to resolve several regional conflicts have been very positively accepted. [passage omitted]

Police Arrest 13 Traffickers, Seize Cocaine

PY1711023588 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 16 Nov 88 p 42

[Summary] Thirteen drug traffickers have been arrested and 5 kg of cocaine hydrochloride have been confiscated during 12 operations conducted by the Federal Police.

The drug traffickers, who are members of a gang known as Linea Pocitos, were identified as Fabian Gerardo Lobalzo, 19; Pedro Enrique Pozniak, 18; Luis Patricio Crocco, 19; Adriana Edith Duarte; Walter Roldan, 21; Edith Lopez Alvarez, 30; Norma Beltran, 25; Orlando Echeverria; Osvaldo Ruggiero; Miriam Ruiz; Adelaida Castillo; and two 17-year-old youths.

The Federal Police also detained 24 drug traffickers and seized 250 grams of cocaine in Puerto Madryn, Chubut Province.

A marijuana plantation and 17 kg of marijuana distributed in plastic bags were discovered in the Almirante Brown neighborhood of Buenos Aires. Beatriz Norma Porto de Acuna, 32, was arrested.

Brazil

Provisional Figures Released in Elections

70 Million Voter Turnout

PY1611011088 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Excerpts] More than 70 million Brazilians voted today to elect mayors and councilmen. The Superior Electoral Court has reported that the elections were peaceful. In most towns and cities the vote count begins tomorrow. In some places, however, the counting has already begun. The first ballot box was opened in Sorocaba, in the interior of Sao Paulo State. [passage omitted]

The vote count in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro will begin at 0800 tomorrow morning. The ballot boxes have already been stored at the electoral boards. [passage omitted]

The Regional Electoral Court believes that in 3 or 4 days the last votes will have been counted. [passage omitted]

Preliminary Figures for Mayors

PY1611132288 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1140 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Summary] After 20 ballot boxes were counted in Belo Horizonte, PSDB [Brazilian Social Democratic Party] candidate Pimenta de Veiga leads with 43 percent of the votes already counted. Virgilio Guimaraes of the PT is second with 28.6 percent.

In Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, (Vilma Maier) of the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] is leading with 41 percent of the counted votes. Enrique Alves of the PMDB is second with 37 percent.

In Salvador, Bahia, (Virgiudaldo Senna) of the PSDB leads with 35.7 percent of the counted votes. Fernando Jose of the PMDB is second with 26 percent.

In Maceio, Pernambuco, Guillerme Palmeira of the PFL leads with 40 percent of the counted votes. (Hernan Calleiro) of the PSDB is second with a little less than 30 percent.

In Teresinha, Heraclio do Fortes of the PMDB leads with 30 percent of the counted votes. Achela Lyra of the PFL is second with 26 percent.

In Recife, Pernambuco, Joaquim Francisco of the PFL leads with 42 percent of the counted votes. Marcos Conha of the PMDB is second with 22 percent.

In Cuiaba, Frederico Campos of the PFL leads with 29 percent after 8.9 percent of the balloting boxes had been opened. Jose Mirelhi of the PMDB is second with 23 percent.

In Sao Paulo the great surprise is that Luiza Erundina de Souza of the PT leads with 29.6 percent of the counted votes. Paulo Maluf of the PDS [Social Democratic Party] is second with 25 percent.

Preliminary Count for Governors

PY1711021288 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Released figures from the electoral board help define the governors' races:

The PMDB is winning in Goiania, Salvador, Fortalzeza, and Teresina; the PDT is winning in Curitiba, Maceio, Recife, and Joao Pessoa; the PT is winning in Porto Alegre, Sao Paulo, and Vitoria; the PTB is winning in Campo Grande and Belem; the Brazilian Socialist Party [PSB] is winning in Manaus and Aracaju; the PDS is winning in Florianopolis; and the PSDB is winning in Belo Horizonte.

Chile

Stange Sees Possible Constitutional Amendments

PY1611183088 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Asked about possible amendments to the Constitution, Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange said that any conflicting situation in the Constitution will be studied if the Executive Branch determines it should be studied, with every respect to its tenets.

[Begin recording] [Stange] If it improves the Constitution, yet respects all the Constitutional tenets, if there are some small situations that can be discussed, and if the people responsible for the political aspects agree, we can discuss it.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think only aspects regarding the composition of the Senate can be reconsidered?

[Stange] I reiterate, there are people directly responsible for the political aspects. The Excecutive Branch is also concerned with the problem. Therefore, let us give them time; let us wait a little. [end recording]

Reporter Acquitted on 'Offending the President'

PY1611025788 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 8 Nov 88 p C-7

[Text] The Eighth Appellate Court has acquitted, by two votes to one, ANALISIS reporter Monica Gonzalez. Gonzalez was sentenced to 61 days in jail by Lower Court Judge Marco Aurelio Perales. She has been released on bail.

The reporter was sentenced for offending the president of the Republic, thus violating Article 6, letter B, of the State Security Law.

PCCh Charged With Hiding Behind FPMR, MIR

PY1611025188 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 10 Nov 88 p 7

[Text] At the Government Palace the national defense minister has accused the Communist Party (PCCh) of operating under the disguise of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) in an attempt to fool the people by saying they do not suport violence. The minister said the PCCh does that for political purposes.

The minister also said that it has been proven that the attack on Los Quenes Carabineros garrison was perpetrated by Marxist elements. He said he believes the investigations have been very positive. He added that the detained attackers are "talking" and providing important data that will prevent similar attacks in the future.

The minister also denied media speculation regarding the real cause for the death of the subversives who drowned in the Tinguiririca River. He affirmed that they simply drowned upstream from where their bodies were found.

Asked whether FPMR attacks on rural areas constitute a new strategy, the minister said: "It is believed that they are being precipitated, that they are not well prepared for these attacks, that they are being pressed to be more successful in order to receive more weapons, money, and other resources. This is an attempt to pretend that the FPMR and the MIR are not supported by the PCCh. For political reasons, the PCCh is pretending that these groups do not obey PCCh orders. As a matter of fact, we are convinced that these groups are obeying the PCCh. They are simply complying with the PCCh policy of pretending to disapprove of violence in order to maintain its alliance with the democratic parties. In truth, however, the PCCh sponsors violence through its armed branches, the MIR and the FPMR.

"These facts must be emphasized because the PCCh attitude is aimed at fooling the silly. What the PCCh is really doing is hiding its crimes behind the FPMR and the MIR facade."

PCCh Meeting Celebrates Russian Revolution

PY1611165988 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 8 Nov 88 p C-2

[Text] The proscribed Communist Party of Chile celebrated last night, in the California Theater, the 71st anniversary of the Russian revolution. The party expressed support for the proposal to register the United Left as a party of leftist forces and announced the holding of the PCCh 15th National Congress.

The sole speaker was Jose Cademartori who, in a 20-page speech, strongly defended the Soviet "perestroika" to party members and political guests. The political guests included Anibal Palma, acting president of the United Left and president of the Democratic Socialist Radical Party.

Cademartori's speech was interrupted several times by militants of the PCCh and the Manuel Rodriguez Front militia who shouted slogans such as "Struggling, creating, shoulder to shoulder."

The crowd who filled the theater, located on Irarrazaval Avenue, cheered the names of Lenin and the Russian revolution during a historic description of that event.

The works of poet Juvencio Valle, winner of the National Literary Award, who has just turned 88 years of age, were also praised during the meeting.

In addition to Anibal Palma, the other political leaders who attended the meeting were: former Radical Senator Hugo Miranda; Ramon Silva Ulloa, president of

USOPO [Popular Socialist Union]; Alvaro Ahumada, leader of the proscribed MIR; and Hernan del Canto, former minister of the UP [Popular Unity] and current leader of the Socialist Party Almeyda faction.

Cademartori praised the FPMR militants Cecilia Magni and Raul Pellegrini, who were linked to the subversive attack against Los Quenes and who were found dead in the Tinguiririca river. He recalled that Pellegrin was a member of the Communist Youth, that he left this organization because of doctrinary differences, and that he then joined the "internationalist fighters" in Nicaragua.

Cademartori called on the opposition "to change from words to action"— that is, "not just to talk about social mobilization but to put it into practice."

Cademartori criticized the current government several times and insisted that the victory of the no-vote in the plebiscite demands the immediate resignation of the president. In addition to reiterating the need for mobilization, Cademartori said that "we have always advocated the need to use all useful means of struggle to move ahead for the cause of the proletariat."

Referring the United Left, he supported the proposal to register that organization as a party representing the left. He added that an independent leftist organization in the elections would create better conditions to exert influence in the opposition.

Cademartori also announced the holding of the 15th National Congress which he said will be "real and not formal" because all the party cells will participate and that every militant will be able to make criticisms and self-criticisms of everything that has occurred since the last congress, which was held in 1969.

Social Democratic Party Established; Board Named
PY1611205388 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Nov 88 p C-2

[Summary] The SD [Social Democracy] organization, led by attorney Arturo Venegas, has registered a political party named "Social Democratic Party" [Partido Social Democrata] (PSD), which is in the process of attaining legal status and will be temporarily led by Rene Manzur Majluf. The appropriate notices were published yesterday in the Official Gazette by the Electoral Board.

The PSD provisional executive board is as follows: Rene Manzur Majluf, president; Luis Alfredo Pacheco Rivera, first vice president; Magdalena Mendoza Mendoza, second vice president; Ana Maria Vila Galindo, third vice president and treasurer; Clara Salinas Villegas, secretary general; and Jorge Romero Eggemeyer, under secretary general.

New Humanist Party Executive Board Registered
PY1611173688 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 8 Nov 88 p C-2

[Summary] Yesterday the OFFICIAL GAZETTE published the new Humanist Party executive board, as certified by the Electoral Service. The board is comprised of Tomas Hirsch Goldschmidt, Laura Rodriguez Ricomini, Alfredo Alfsen Ovando, Gonzalo Garcia-Huidobro Severin, Tomas Bize Brintrup, Sara Campos Sellato, Carmen Gloria Avendano Ruiz, Paulo Hunt Precht, Pablo Vergara Loyola, and Dario Erhas Benmayor.

Regional Independent Front Established
PY1611224388 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 11 Nov 88 p C-2

[Summay] Valparaiso—A new political movement, named the Regional Independent Front [Frente Independiente Reginal—FIR], has been officially established in the fifth region.

The FIR executive board is made up as follows: Sergio Valencia Duran, president; Carlos Valdenegro Oyanedel, vice president; Guillermo Henriquez Alfaro, secretary general; Juan Agustin Leiva, alternate secretary; and Jose Lobos Carrasco, treasurer.

Officers Retire, New Navy High Command Named
PY1711012388 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 6 Nov 88 p 11

[Text] The Chilean Navy has announced that the following officers will retire by the end of 1988 after 40 years of service:

Vice Admiral Hernan Rivera Calderon, chief of the Navy General Staff; and Vice Admiral Rigoberto Cruz Johnson, chief of National Defense Staff.

The following rear admirals will also retire:

Federico Penaranda Garces, Eduardo Alvayay Fuentes, Oscar Aranda Valverde, Alejandro Campos Lira, Jorge Ardiles Rojas, Enrique Vera Jofre, and Mario Sepulveda Mattus.

In 1989, the Navy High Command will be made up of:
Vice Adm Jorge Sepulveda Ortiz, chief of the Navy General Staff.
Vice Adm Fernando Navajas Irigoyen, commander in chief of the 1st Naval Zone.
Vice Adm Gustavo Pfleifer Niedbalski, director for Merchant Marine and Maritime Territories.
Rear Adm Aldo Montagna Bargetto, Navy auditor general; Rear Adm Rolando Gonzalez, Navy services general director.
Rear Adm Jorge Martinez Busch, general director of Navy personnel.
Rear Adm Herbert Wilhelm Perelman, director of the Navy Medical Corps.

Rear Adm Harald Rosenguist Senoret, naval shipyards director.
Rear Adm German Toledo Lazcano, economic adviser to Navy commander in chief at Government Junta.
Rear Adm Fernando Lazcano Jimenez, 3d Naval Zone commander.
Rear Adm Alfredo Gallegos Villalobos, head of the Chilean Naval Mission in Washington.
Rear Adm Claudio Aguayo Herrera, squadron commander in chief.
Rear Adm Rafael Gonzalez Rees, head of the Navy Mission in London.
Rear Adm Douglas Ashcroft Stomayor, director of the Navy Engineering Unit.
Rear Adm Pedro Anguita Izquierdo, commander of Naval Aviation.
Rear Adm Juan Mackay Barriga, commander in chief of the 2d Naval Zone.
Rear Adm Juan Carlos Toledo de la Maza, chief of the Navy Staff.
Rear Adm Carlos Blanlot Kerbenhard, general commander of the Marine Corps.
Rear Adm Jose del Barrio Valenzuela, director of the Navy Supply and Accountind Department.
Ship-of-the-Line Captain Juan Anderson Diaz, War Materiel director.
Ship-of-the-Line Captain Carlos Perey Opazo, North Naval Zone commander.
Ship-of-the-Line Captain Jorge Dominguez, Submarine Force commander in chief.
Ship-of-the-Line Captain Jorge Arancibia Reyes, deputy chief of the Navy General Staff.
Ship-of-the-Line Captain Horacio Groetaers Toso, Navy comptroller.
Ship-of-the-Line Captain Eduardo Oelckers Sepulveda, Navy social welfare director.
Ship-of-the-Line Captain Oscar Vidal Walton, director of the Navy Training Department.
Ship-of-the-Line Captain Victor Deforme Duco, Navy Intelligence director.
Ship-of-the-Line Captain Sergio Jarpa Gerhard, Navy secretary general.

Appointed 4th Army Division Chief Reassigned

PY1611132788 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Relay from Valdivia]

[Text] Brigadier General Eduardo Iturriaga Neumann, commander of the 4th Army Division, has told the press that General Richard Quaas, who had originally been appointed to replace him, has been reassigned to another post.

He added that General Carlos Rudloff, who was recently promoted and who was the intendent of the 11th Region in Collaique, will replace him as commander of the 4th Army Division. Gen Rudloff, will be installed on 21 November. Gen Iturriaga also indicated that Gen Rudloff may also be appointed governor of Valdivia Province, but that this information has not yet been confirmed.

Military Industry, Engineering Chief Installed

PY1711012588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Summary] Today General Fernando Hormazabal was installed as commander of the military industry and engineering command, replacing Brigadier General Francisco Ramirez Migliassi.

Colombia

* Unemployment Rates for Major Cities Released

34480021b Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Oct 88 p 7A

["Unemployment: Lowest Level in 6 Years"]

[Text] There is every indication that the goals proposed 2 years ago by the Chenery mission are being attained in our nation. The unemployment rate in the four leading cities (Bogota, Medellin, Cali, and Barranquilla) dropped to 10 percent last month. This is the lowest level for that month in the past 6 years.

According to DANE [National Administrative Department of Statistics], this situation is a result of the steady growth of the national economy.

After reaching its highest level in mid-1986 (nearly 15 percent), unemployment has declined steadily, reaching 10 percent last month.

According to the corresponding report, in September 1985 there were 462,000 unemployed persons in those four cities, representing an average unemployment rate of 14.1 percent. For the same month this year, the number of jobless persons was 100,000 less than the 1985 figure, thereby reaching the aforementioned rate.

Last month there were 3.25 million employed persons in the four cities, which means that 328,000 jobs have been created since June 1986.

The participation rate (number of persons employed or seeking work in relation to total number of persons of working age) for the four cities totaled 57.8 percent last month, a figure which exceeded those for the same month during the previous years.

General Reduction

When the situation is observed by cities, some differences appear. Where the unemployment rate declined most was in Barranquilla, dropping from 17.5 percent in September 1985 to 9.1 percent last month, the lowest rate in the group being analyzed.

The opposite situation was found in Medellin. After having experienced an improvement which caused the figure to drop from 15.6 percent in 1985 to 11.1 percent last year, in 1988 it rose to 11.7 percent (all figures are for the month of September); this is the highest rate among the four cities studied.

Medellin was the only city in the group studied whose unemployment rose over last year's figure. The number of umemployed persons rose from 67,000 in 1987, to 74,000 this year.

Cali was the only city showing a reduction in the participation rate, which dropped from 60.4 percent to 58.1 percent during the same interval.

In the other cities, the participation rate increased: 1.4 points in Bogota, 2.3 points in Medellin; it remained unchanged in Barranquilla.

Since 1985, the four cities have also shown different increments in the number of persons employed. The number of positions increased by 250,000 in Bogota; 64,000 in Medellin; Cali 68,000; and Barranquilla 53,000.

Compared with last year, Bogota provided jobs to 88,000 more persons; Medellin, to 25,000; and Barranquilla, to 23,000. Cali recorded the smallest increase, offering employment to only 8,000 additional persons.

Meanwhile, the number of unemployed varied greatly in each city. In comparison with September of last year, there were 14,000 fewer unemployed persons in Bogota, 12,000 in Cali, and 16,000 in Barranqilla. During the same interval, the number of unemployed persons in Medellin increased by 7,000.

According to DANE, the foregoing figures were obtained from the Survey of Households, an investigation made on a quarterly basis by the agency. On this occasion, 22,000 homes were visited in eight cities.

Varying degrees of unemployment were found in the other four cities which were not mentioned. The lowest rate was found in Bucaramanga, measuring 9.9 percent. The others were: Manizales, with 11.5 percent; Cartagena, with 13.4 percent; and Pasto, whose umemployment increased to 14.5 percent as a result of that city's economic situation.

* Poor Economic Climate in Narino Described

3348002 1c Medellin EL COLOMBIANO in Spanish 5 Oct 88 p 8B

[Article by Jaime Eliecer Calvache: "Narino, a Time Bomb"]

[Text] Pasto (COLPRENSA-DIARIO DEL SUR)—During its 84 years of departmental existence, Narino has become what might be termed a time bomb, which could explode at any moment if the unflagging patience of its stoic inhabitants ever becomes exhausted.

Taking Stock

Seventy percent of businesses are virtually on brink of bankruptcy, with an almost unchecked flow of contraband arriving from Ecuador.

It has runaway unemployment which, at 18 percent, exceeds that in all other parts of the country.

[It has] a liquor industry that was supposed to produce 40 percent of the departmental budget, but shows a deficit of 430 million because of obsolete equipment that has precluded its normal operation, compounded by poor administrations.

[It has] a port like Tumaco, which is shouting "enough!" to neglect.

[It has] a teaching profession which is constantly protesting.

[It has] a health sector which is also in a state of crisis, and a department that is generally the scene of disgraceful political battles.

These and many other features, such as the drought in the northern region, the land ownership problem in the south, and a university harboring various irregularities that have driven it into an economic, administrative, and academic crisis, are explosive elements of the time bomb which Narino is becoming.

The region has always distinguished itself as one of the departments free from domination by guerrillas and drug traffickers.

Patience Exhausted

Nevertheless, inside and outside observers warn that the patience of its people is showing clear signs of exhaustion, because of constant alienation.

They cite as examples recent incidents that have claimed the front pages of newspapers, such as the disturbances in Tumaco and Pasto, as well as a determined hunger strike by 87 teachers, which did not end until 176 hours later.

'Cinderella'

Narino has a number of reasons to feel like the Cinderella of Colombian departments, with but few consolations. And in that role, it has always turned up with the smallest portion of the national budget.

For example, in this fiscal year, only 1 percent of those funds were assigned to it, although a regulation specifies that a percentage will be allocated to each region according to the number of inhabitants. Narino residents represent 4 percent of the Colombian population.

It has always been this way, hence its constant economic affliction. As a result, its governors have been administrators of poverty more than anything else.

Constant Difficulties

Recalling what has happened during the past 5 years alone, we might say that, in 1983, then governor, Miryam Paredes Aguirre, justified the crisis by citing the bad times being experienced by the liquor industry; her finance secretary, Arnulfo Castillo, claimed that, at the end of that year, the department would have an economic deficit of 200 million pesos. It now totals over 600 million.

In April 1984, an official document warned that, "within a short time, the department will have lost its total debt capacity, and will, therefore, have no expedient available for meeting administrative expenses; this will lead to an unprecedented problem with public order."

In June of that year, faced with a deficit of 800 million, Miryam Paredes' successor, Alberto Diaz del Castillo, admitted to being desperate. He claimed: "I have no tools for devising plans to counter patronage, administrative messes, and gross behavior."

The situation was no different for Mercedes Apraez de Ortega, his successor. Her warning was: "We are guaranteeing a peace in Narino that is fictitious. We feel powerless, because we lack the necessary resources. The time may come when this will become excessive, and no one will be able to restrain it."

Nor would that picture change for those following them: Luis Eladio Perez and Eduardo Romo Rosero, the current governor, both of whom arrived in the office of an enterprise accustomed to balances in the red.

The Crisis Continues

There is every indication that absolute poverty will continue in Narino. In 1989, it will again have a starvation budget of only 3.3 billion pesos, whereas at least twice that much is needed. The department has not issued the labor dues to the pension fund since last December, and is 3 months in arrears for the salaries of its workers, who have already announced an indefinite strike.

The Narino Institute of Development was abolished because of a physical lack of funds, and was replaced by the Narino Financial Institute which is already on the way toward bankruptcy.

The departmental pension fund is gradually finding the doors of its creditors closed.

It owes 12 million pesos to drugstores alone, and the Fatima Clinic will no longer take in any more patients sent by the agency.

In October, the department's health sector will bring its activities to a standstill. Its workers are demanding that an agreement reached in June be fulfilled and that they be classification as government workers. The entire sector is faced with a deficit of over 1.2 billion pesos.

Patronage

At present, Narino is experiencing not only a constant economic crisis, but a political one as well.

A considerable number of governors have left preceded by scandals and certain political problems, some of their own making, and others contrived by their group or party rivals who always have a strong motive for causing them problems: dissatisfaction with the bureaucratic distribution in the cabinet.

The Barco administration has proven once again that Narino is perhaps the most difficult department to manage politically. For nearly a year, it decided to keep Mercedes Apraez in office as governor, despite the fact that the previous government had appointed her.

When a political consensus was finally reached, Jesus Rosero Ruano was named, but he never took office; he was removed because of a case that he had pending with the Attorney General's Office.

Luis Eladio Perez left following a political crisis which erupted, when he shuffled his cabinet for the third time in 11 months, in a manner that did not please the regional leaders; his successor, Eduardo Romo Rosero, is maintaining an irrevocable resignation, submitted only 5 days after taking office, because he could not withstand the political pressures involved in forming his cabinet.

Land of Illusions

Narino is a land whose illusions are as numerous as its needs. Once, it went so far as to dream of a refinery in Tumaco, but it all vanished. A couple of years ago, they began to harbor another dream for the island: the fishing port. It is still engaged in that battle, but the government gave more rapid assurance to Buenaventura, a port that is an alternative to this one.

Its capital, Pasto, thought that, in June 1987 when it marked 450 years of existence, the great opportunity would come to claim the projects so long desired. Nevertheless, even today, the terminal and the slaughterhouse are not a reality, and its streets have been only partially repaired and very few are paved.

The border trade is still demanding implementation of the Borders Statute, and the benefit of a loan of 1.5 billion pesos, at a special interest rate, to cope with the crisis caused by the plummeting of the sucre, as well as fulfillment of the many agreements signed between Colombia and Ecuador.

The northern region is inhabited by people who have been the victims of a long drought and are still awaiting the implementation of projects and action to counter the devastating effects of the phenomenon.

The southern zone, is still embroiled in land ownership problems between settlers and Indians. The latter have been leaders of over a dozen invasions. The state's action has been too slow.

Teachers Too

In 1989, the teachers hope to see the advancement to full-time status of 566 instructors working on the basis of an academic hour, and to see that the training of over 3,000 municipal teachers, as well as other commitments, will be fulfilled.

According to observers, the excesses and strong protests of recent weeks are due primarily, as has been said, to the exhaustion of Narino residents' patience.

They also note that the governments themselves have undertaken to prove (although they claim the contrary) that it is strikes and complicated public order situations that prompt them to mobilize their highest ranking representatives to put out "the fires," whether by finally fulfilling what was promised some time ago, or committing themselves to many accomplishments.

They claim that the Barco administration has just vindicated the department of Narino itself, in which the teachers decided to cease the work stoppage and hunger strike after the chief executive agreed to assimilate to full-time status, albeit by stages, the 566 teachers working on the basis of an academic hour basis, although the ministry had repeatedly claimed that there was no money for keeping that commitment.

And they observe that, after the tragic upheaval, the residents of Tumaco succeeded in prompting the government to quickly solve the electric power problem to a large extent. With but few exceptions, the inhabitants of Narino think that, if what happened had not happened, the island would still be left in darkness, with its teachers still on strike.

* Reduction in Gasoline Consumption Advocated

3348002la Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
5 Oct 88 pp 1A, 7B

[Article by Hermogenes Ardila: "Government Calls for Cut in Gasoline Consumption"]

[Text] The terrorist attacks, the decline in international oil prices, and the progressive rise in the demand for refined fuels have prompted the government to respond with an unanticipated recommendation: "Gasoline consumption must be cut."

This year, hydrocarbon imports increased from 17,000 to 25,000 barrels per day, because the demand has been rising at a rate of 5.5 percent, while the rate of refining remains stagnant.

The president of ECOPETROL [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise], Andres Restrepo Londono, declared that Colombians must become aware of the need to economize on fuels, because "we are not wallowing in the prosperity of our hydrocarbon resources."

He added: "We have them, but they also have to be imported. Gasoline consumption is increasing at a fast rate, because the economy is growing as well."

During the first half of the year, the country had to purchase 1.92 million additional barrels of gasoline on the international markets (Venezuela and Mexico). According to official statistics, the cost was approximately $37 million.

The state company's president claimed that the country is showing a rising deficit in refining, which is being offset for the present by fuel oil exports. Nevertheless, he added, the price differentials due to the drop in international crude prices are reducing the margins that existed.

"The increase in gasoline imports, which is greater than expected, is one of the factors concerning us and forcing us to look at the refining programs."

He noted that no decision has yet been made regarding the construction of the new refinery, and he noted that U.S. experts will soon be reviewing the studies made on the plan.

Restrepo Londono, who held a press conference with Bogota reporters for the first time since taking office, declared that, this year, ECOPETROL will fail to receive over $300 million (about 90 billion pesos) owing to the decline in international oil prices and the terrorist attacks against the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline.

In view of the change in the state enterprise's financial prospects, there will be a reorientation of certain investments. He did not specify which, but explained that there would be no reduction in the budget allocated for the exploration program.

He remarked that ECOPETROL's exploration effort must be maintained, with increasingly stronger emphasis. It has not been necessary to resort to the Exploration Fund [FODEX] resources, because the investments have been made with current monies generated during the course of the year.

The $150 million that ECOPETROL has in the forms of FODEX and Bank of the Republic bonds are Fund reserves for the future. The spending on exploration is

essential, constituting the anticyclical device to prevent the country from being left without reserves, currently estimated at 2 billion barrels.

Despite ECOPETROL's complicated financial situation, the official denied that a readjustment in gasoline prices is being studied, maintaining that this is a decision that the Council of Ministers would have to make when it is deemed fitting.

He explained that the companies' income depends on what they accrue from sales of their products. The time, the occasion, and the quantification are policies that the Council of Ministers must decide upon, and this issue has not been taken up as yet.

As for the action being taken by the government to curb terrorist attacks against the oil transport infrastructure, Restrepo Londono claimed that the armed forces and ECOPETROL's technicians are still keeping watch over the oil pipeline.

Nevertheless, he called upon the community to cooperate, "because we all have a part to play in stopping the attacks," as these are acts which negatively impact the economic development and the social welfare of Colombians.

He also claimed that the attacks against representatives of the multinational companies, such as the one sustained in Bogota by the manager of the Texas firm, John Buttle, create fear among foreign investors. "Nevertheless, we trust that they will continue to be take part in exploration activity. This activity is progressing well."

New Discovery

Restrepo Londono disclosed that the Quilili oil well, located north of Puerto Asis (Putumayo), proved to be good, and that the samples taken from deep within the Villeta formation show a production potential of 1,869 barrels per day.

The oil found there is of excellent quality. The official commented: "It is a very important discovery, because the Putumayo zone, ECOPETROL's southern district, has undergone a decline."

Approximately 16,000 barrels per day are currently being transported through this district's oil pipeline, in other words, less than half its capacity. Restrepo Londono observed that the well has not been completely drilled in the upper intervals; hence it is expected that the production from the deposit will be larger than that indicated by the first tests.

Right-wing Groups Responsible for Attacks

PA1711010088 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1452 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Bogota, 16 Nov (DPA)—The right-wing paramilitary group "Denis" claimed responsibility a few hours ago for the massacre that occurred in the northwestern Colombian town of Segovia. The group made this claim in a communique sent to a Medellin radio station.

The unknown organization apparently carried out the massacre in retaliation for the death of one of its members, Denis Lozano Perez, in May. Lozano was killed during the strike held in the neighboring Remedios municipality to protest the murder of Elkin Martinez Alvarez, the Patriotic Union's mayor-elect. Right-wing paramilitary forces killed Martinez.

Meanwhile, the authorities announced the communique will be studied to determine its authenticity. The members of the committee for the indefinite strike in Segovia are insisting that the group "Death to the Revolutionaries in Northeastern Antioquia" perpetrated the attack.

An official commission is expected to convene today in Segovia. Chairing the commission is Justice Minister Guillermo Plazas Alcid. The commission is composed of officials of the Presidential Advisory Board for Peace [Consejeria Presidencial para la Paz], the Attorney General's Office, and investigators of the Judicial Police and the Army.

Meanwhile, the indefinite strike that began last night in Segovia has almost totally paralyzed the town's activities. [passage omitted]

Police Confiscate Cocaine From Flower Shipment

PA1611164388 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Summary] The old trick of hiding drugs among flower shipments has been used again by drug traffickers. At El Dorado Airport, F-2 agents detected and confiscated 45 kg of cocaine camouflaged in a flower shipment bound for Florida onboard a Lineas Aereas del Caribe cargo plane. The five men detained are Carlos Cano, Hector Gomez, Marcos Cometa, Gilberto Calle, and Alfonso Contreras—all employees of Jardin la Floresta, LTD.

Peru

Communist Confederation Warns Government

PY1611175188 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2001 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] The Communist controlled General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP) has warned the government that it will call strikes and organize protest marches if the government does not solve this week the conflict that keeps some 120,000 workers on strike.

The striking workers demand better salaries, indexation to cope with inflation, a freeze on staples, and government action to solve the scarcity of basic products.

The CGTP revealed its position only hours before the government is due to announce new economic measures that include a rise in the price of food, and salary increases only 10 weeks after another package of economic measures raised the inflation rate from January to October to 962 percent.

CGTP leader Senator Valentin Pacho told the media that "the CGTP will be forced to implement a plan of struggle as of 21 November if the government does not give a positive answer to the demands (of the striking workers). The authorities will be responsible for the consequences," Pacho said.

The main concern of the government is the strike of some 60,000 mine workers, a sector that produces 54 percent of the hard currency of the country. The 29-day strike has already cost the country $145 million in revenue.

The strike that forced Peru to suspend exports of copper is affecting the Toquepala and Cuajone mines, producers of 75 percent of all Peruvian copper. The mines are exploited by the U.S. firm Southern Peru Copper Corporation.

Other private companies and some important state companies that produce copper, lead, silver, zinc, and iron are also affected by the strike.

The National Federation of Metallurgical Workers has demanded to be recognized as the single representative of the 90,000 mine workers in items concerning salary demands. The mine owners oppose this petition.

Meanwhile, 32,000 sugarcane farmers continue today with their 2d day of strike in demand of a 50 percent increase in the official price of sugar in order to recover their cost of production.

In Lima, the riot police had to resort to truncheons, tear gas, and water cannons, to break the demonstration of some 2,000 striking workers from the mining, metallurgical, and textile sectors, who marched with employees from the Judicial Branch, the Social Security System and the State Enterprise of food trading.

The Interdepartmental Confederation of Public Workers (CITE) [Confederation Intersectorial de Trabajadores Estatales], which is said to represent 90 percent of the 630,000 public employees working in ministries, hospitals, prisons, popular kitchens, and schools and universities, has called a 24-hour strike for 17 November in demand of a real increase in their salaries.

The Peruvian Bank Employees Federation (FEB) has warned it will resume the strike it suspended on 11 November after 4 days of strike if the courts annul the indexation of their salaries to the inflation rate, as approved by the government.

Striking Miners Attack Labor Ministry Building

PY1611205188 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpt] A group of striking miners has destroyed the front doors of the Labor Ministry with rocks and clubs. Labor Minister Orestes Rodriguez Campos has criticized the strike.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Striking miners are creating some disturbances in front of the Labor Ministry. They are throwing whatever they can lay their hands on at the ministry's glass doors. [shouting, chanting in background]

The miners have placed obstacles on the avenue where the ministry is located, thus blocking both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. [shouting, chanting in background, noise of breaking glass heard]

They are breaking the ministry's glass front doors. [shouting, chanting continues]

This is occurring at approximately 1135 [1635 GMT] this morning. This is occurring at approximately 1040 today [sentence as heard]. One of the miners has a club and is now breaking the ministry's windows. [shouting, chanting continues, shots are heard]

Republican Guard personnel are shooting into the air to try and disperse the miners. The miners are now throwing things at the Republican Guard personnel that are on duty here at the Labor Ministry.

The Republican Guards are firing into the air in order to disperse the crowd, but miners are using slingshots to stop them.

These are the remains of the Labor Ministry's front doors. They have been totally destroyed by miners, who dispersed a few minutes ago.

[Labor Minister Orestes Rodriguez Campos] I call the attack against the Labor Ministry a vandalistic action. These were not miners from the interior, they are followers of Mr Cantoral, who must have a lot of money to pay these citizens, who do not act like workers but like common criminals who have come here to break the windows and damage the Labor Ministry.

Therefore, we energetically reject the position of the Miners Federation headed by Mr Cantoral. He needs to understand that his problem is with the judges, with the

Supreme Court. If he has any problems he should resort to the Supreme Court, not to the Labor Ministry, because we must respect the laws that have been approved by the state.

[Reporter] Has an evaluation of the damage been made?

[Rodriguez] The appropriate prosecutor is evaluating, along with our directors and vice ministers, what appropriate actions should be.

[Reporter] Was anyone wounded?

[Rodriguez] Luckily no, because police intervened immediately in this emergency situation. I have been told that two persons were wounded, one of them is a policeman who was on duty here at the ministry. We hope that the wounds are not serious. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Subversives' Attack Police Station, Kill 3

PY1711023388 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] A civil guardsman was killed in a terrorist attack on a police station in Tayabamba in La Libertad Department. During the attack, one woman and one subversive were killed and a radio operator was injured.

The policeman killed by the terrorists has been identified as Jose Rodriguez Santisteban.

The attack occurred yesterday morning.

High-Ranking Officers Meet Secretly in Lima

PY1611125688 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 10 Nov 88 p C-3

[By special correspondent Mario Valle]

[Text] The 3d meeting on high-ranking officers of the Chilean and Peruvian Armed Forces ended in Lima last night under strict secrecy.

EL MERCURIO was told that this meeting, which was not reported by local news media, was held to strengthen ties and to achieve rapprochement.

During the meeting it was agreed that reciprocal confidence and cooperation between the Armed Forces of the two countries should be increased, as has occurred in previous meetings. The most recent of these meetings was held in Santiago early this year.

The Chilean delegation was made up of Navy Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Hernan Rivera Calderon, Army Chief of Staff Major General Roberto Soto Mackenney, Air Force Chief of Staff General Ramon Vega Hidalgo, Chief of National Defense Staff Vice Admiral Rigoberto Cruz Johnson, and their respective advisers.

The Chilean delegation will return to Chile today.

The Peruvian delegation consisted of Navy Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Augusto Fernandez Hidalgo, Army Chief of Staff General Alejandro Antunez de Mayolo, Air Force Chief of Staff General Carlos Mauricio Aburto.

The meetings began during the afternoon of 8 November and were held at the Cesar's Palace Hotel in the Miraflores neighborhood of Lima.

Uruguay

Broad Front Coalition Facing 'Internal Crisis'

PY1211203988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1706 GMT 12 Nov 88

[Text] Montevideo, 12 Nov (EFE)—The Uruguayan leftist coalition "Broad Front" the third-ranking political force in the country, is going through a period of internal crisis that could prompt a split barely 1 year before the general elections.

The "Front," which was founded in 1971 as a new progressive alternative to the traditional parties, is made up of 13 parties, ranging from the Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, and Socialists, to the Communists and Marxists.

During the past few months, internal disagreements within the coalition have increased. Last week General Liber Seregni, retired, the "Broad Front" president and leader, presented a document to the coalition's political board, proposing a reorganization for next year's elections.

The Party for the People's Government [Partido por el Gobierno del Pueblo—PGP] (social democratic), a majority sector—according to the results of the 1984 elections—led by Senator Hugo Batalla, has said that Seregni's proposal "is unacceptable."

The "PGP" says that the document calls for a "touch up" in the Broad Front, not "the profound reform" the PGP deems necessary.

Deputy Hector Lescano, the president of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), another force within the leftist coalition that asked for profound changes, has said that "we are far yet from reaching a final agreement."

In a front page article, the newspaper EL DIA, which has close ties to the ruling Colorado party, today reported that the PGP and the PDC may possibly abandon the Broad Front and create a new coalition, one that will exclude the Marxist forces.

Deputy Julio Daverede of the Catholic Civic Union Party, today announced that his party, which has very little power in congress, may form an electoral coalition,

along with any other forces abandoning the Broad Front and other Social- Christian sectors, for the elections scheduled for November 1989.

The great difference among the leftist sectors is that some of them are more interested in the electoral campaign than in reorganizing the coalition. The confrontations concern who is going to be the presidential candidate.

One sector, which includes the Socialists, Communists, and Marxists, supports Seregni, who was not the presidential candidate in the 1984 coalition because he was banned from participating.

Seregni, a presidential candidate in 1971, was arrested and banned from participating in politics during the military regime from 1973-85.

Another sector of the Broad Front, which includes Social Christians and Social Democrats, advocates double candidacy or the candidacy of Batalla.

According to polls, the leftist electorate is divided about equally between the two candidates.

Arismendi Says Front Strong

PY1511011988 Montevideo LA HORA in Spanish 10 Nov 88 p 5

[Excerpt] Rodney Arismendi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Uruguay [PCU], yesterday said that despite all of its problems the Broad Front [FA] continues to strengthen its chances to be a real option for the government. He added that the people are tired of speculation, and he reaffirmed his conviction that Senator Batalla will not leave the FA coalition.

In a news conference given yesterday by Advanced Democracy [a member party of the FA coalition], Arismendi commented on the FA internal situation. In reply to a question, he said that despite all its problems, the FA "continues to strengthen its position in national life as a force that has become a valid option for government. The crisis provoked by the government's economic policy and the regression prompted by its authoritarian policy—which range from the Full Stop Law, the dismissal of officials, and the imprisonment of officers to Araujo's expulsion from the Senate and other actions—have obviously created an atmosphere of discontent. This atmosphere has in turn critically affected the leaders of the National Party, most of whom have joined the government of the Colorado Party and become its accomplices.

"Every poll shows that the FA continues to be the only hope, the only political force that enjoys the trust of workers, intellectuals, experts, youths, middle-class groups, and people living outside Montevideo. I would say that the FA position, from the standpoint of its principles and its raison d'etre, is now stronger than ever." [passage omitted]

Government Employees Receive 21-Percent

PY1611021188 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Commenting on the recent wage increases for government employees, Economy Minister Ricardo Zerbino said:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] As is known, there has been a drop in the growth rate of the Uruguayan economy. The decline in economic growth was provoked by various factors. Naturally, there has been less income because there has been less production and less collection of taxes. Thus, the national treasry has suffered cuts in its income. In no way could we prevent this reduction from influencing the government's fiscal policy.

Thus, the government has approved a 21-percent wage increase for government employees and, to show that the government is not taking restrictive measures that will affect workers only, there will also be cuts of between 5 to 10 percent in investment projects. All this will be done to balance the treasury income, to avoid fiscal deficits and to curb inflation, which is the evil that causes the greatest damage to the working class. [passage omitted] [end recording]